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OUR MERCHANT-SHIPPERS' ISSUE.

The next number of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST (March 12) will be specially circulated to export merchant shippers in the United Kingdom. As the new year's indents are usually received by the shippers in March, this issue is one which all advertisers should take full advantage of. There is nothing like keeping the buyers in shipping-offices posted as to the origin of goods. The Publisher will close the Merchant-shippers' Issue on Tuesday, March 8. Business-houses should not wait until then, but send in their "copy" for advertisements by an early post.

N.B.—Advertisements for the Supplement will be received up to Thursday, March 10, as usual.

OPENING A PHARMACY.

NOW READY, a new and enlarged edition of this popular book containing much new matter, such as bookkeeping for chemists, advertising, leases, pharmacy laws, and other subjects which those commencing business on their own account want to know. The opening orders are fully detailed. Price 2s., by post 2s. 3d. Published at the offices of the C. & D., 42 Cannon Street, London, E.C.

Summary.

A NUMBER of stamped-medicine questions are dealt with on p. 397.

RADIUM has now been found in the Bath thermal waters (p. 372).

DR. DOYEN, a French doctor, believes he has found a cancer antitoxic serum (p. 375).

MESSRS. HUDSON-COX AND SIMMONS show that by means of iodine-absorption synthetic otto of rose can be distinguished from the natural (p. 398).

MR. ALFRED FELTON, of Messrs. Felton, Grimwade & Co., Melbourne, died on January 8 (p. 404), leaving a fortune of about half a million (p. 383).

THE POSITION OF THE IODINE-MARKET is reviewed editorially, and the causes of the advance indicated, but the future is somewhat uncertain (p. 387).

MR. GEORGE P. POND appears as the advocate of Somerset House on the drug-store keeper concession, and writes a long letter on the subject (p. 396).

THE Inter-Pharmacy Football Cup contest is practically decided for this season. It will be transferred from the Square to the Metropolitan College (p. 375).

MR. WILLIAM THOMAS, the chemist who is credited with introducing cutting amongst retailers in London about twenty-five years ago, died last week (p. 404).

THE FEDERATION OF PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATIONS has received promises of consideration or support of the Pharmacy Bill from sixteen M.P.s, from the Prime Minister downwards (p. 379).

SALE of cream of tartar contaminated with arsenic is the latest offence under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, the contamination arising from the glaze of the manufacturing plant—it is said (p. 390).

"POWDERED GENTIAN" is being imported which is heavily adulterated with ground almond-shells and ground wood. Mr. H. S. Collins describes how the adulteration may be detected (p. 403).

THE PHARMACY BILL was introduced into the House of Commons on Monday (p. 378), being backed by all who backed it last year (Mr. John Burns having returned to full allegiance), and by some others (p. 379).

MR. A. S. CAMPKIN, of Cambridge, has been co-opted a member of the Pharmaceutical Council to take the place of the late Mr. John Taylor (p. 389). We give his portrait and a brief biographical note on p. 406.

THE B.P. METHOD of determining melting-points is the subject of an inquiry undertaken by Dr. Leonard Dobbin on behalf of the General Medical Council. A preliminary note is published on p. 403, and comments on it are invited.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF RHODESIA reports that British methylated spirit will henceforth be imported free into the Colony, and chemists will get a rebate of the duty on rectified spirit used for medicinal purposes (p. 406).

MR. O'MALLEY is asking the Prime Minister to legislate in regard to pharmacy in Great Britain on the Orange River Colony lines (p. 378). We have addressed managing directors of drug-companies on this matter, and responses so far indicate agreement with the need for legislation (p. 378).

CHANGES in market value of drugs and chemicals, although fairly numerous, do not comprise anything of first class importance. Carboic acid continues to advance, ergot is firmer, castor oil is easier, cinnamon and a few essential oils are lower. Quinine is nominal, and opium and cod-liver oil are dull. An auction of "new and old" drugs is reported on p. 399.

THE PHARMACEUTICAL COUNCIL'S business this week included several interesting items. The President and Mr. Carteighe are to go to Somerset House about the concession to drug-store-keepers. On the motion of Mr. Gifford the question of appointing an Organising Secretary is to be considered; and a committee is also to consider a proposal by Dr. Symes as to the recognition of pharmacists as Pharmacopœia compilers (p. 380).

THE PORTSMOUTH ASYLUM poisoning-case has ended in a verdict of death from misadventure, the jury adding a rider calling upon the authorities to appoint a qualified dispenser (p. 375). Sir Thomas Dewar, M.P., has asked a question in the House on the matter, and Mr. Fellowes, of the Board of Agriculture, replied that his Department's Bill to amend the Pharmacy Acts will be introduced by-and-by (p. 378). We comment upon the matter on p. 388.

English News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

Brevities.

On February 26 burglars broke into the premises of Messrs. John Whitfield & Son, chemists, 113 Westborough, Scarborough, and stole 3*l.* in money.

At Petersfield (Hants) last week William Street, a grocer, of Horndean, was fined 5*l.*, and 11*s.* 6*d.* costs, for selling patent medicines without a licence.

Wilton Brooks, formerly manager and secretary of the Rylands Glass and Engineering Company, of Stairfoot, Barnsley, has been committed for trial at the West Riding Assizes on charges of embezzlement and false pretences.

The contract for the supply of drugs to the Metropolitan Asylums Board has been secured by Messrs. C. J. Hewlett & Son, of Charlotte Street, E.C., and Messrs. Burgoyne, Burbidges & Co., of Coleman Street, E.C., will supply sundries.

At Bath Town Council on March 1 it was announced that the Hon. R. J. Strutt had stated that, as a result of further investigations, he had detected the presence of radium not only in the deposit of the Bath mineral-springs, but in the water itself.

At Chipping Norton last week a lad named Herbert Miles was ordered to be birched for stealing a box containing a dozen anti-rheumatic rings, value 12*s.*, from the counter of the shop belonging to Mr. H. W. G. Morris, chemist and druggist, Chipping Norton.

The Local Government Board have sanctioned the adoption by the Hackney Board of Guardians of a salary of 140*l.* per annum (with increases of 40*l.* in instalments of 10*l.* every four years, in the case of Mr. F. E. Trayner, dispenser at their infirmary.

A Photographic Society in connection with Messrs. Bleasdale (Limited), wholesale druggists, York, was founded on February 27. Mr. A. Humphreys (managing director) being elected President, Mr. G. A. W. Stockwin, Vice-president, and Mr. W. E. Heselwood, Secretary.

The Hants, Wilts, and Dorset Mineral-water Manufacturers' and Bottlers' Association and Trade Protection Society (Limited) reports that a minimum-price agreement is being adhered to at Bournemouth, but has failed at Weymouth; while at Portsmouth an attempt at united action early last year was abandoned after several meetings.

On Friday, February 26, a van belonging to Messrs. Manners & Hopkinson, 66 Southwark Bridge Road, S.E., containing a large consignment of drugs, was run into by an electric tramcar in Queen's Road, Peckham, and damage to the amount of 37*l.* was done, owing to the driver of the car losing control of the brake.

The annual photographic exhibition of the Cripple Gate Photographic Society, held at the Cripple Gate Institute, contained some good effective work. Photography by artificial light was carried out, and demonstrations in platinotype and carbon printings and bromide enlarging were given, besides a lantern exhibition of prize slides. Amongst the trade exhibitors were Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co., Messrs. G. Houghton & Son and Messrs. R. & J. Beck. The London Viennese Band was in attendance.

At North London Police Court, on March 2, Messrs. Allen & Hanburys (Limited), Plough Court, Lombard Street, E.C., were summoned by the London County Council for causing to be worked on the public highway a locomotive which did not consume its own smoke. A police-constable gave evidence of the smoking, and for the defence it was contended that the circumstance was accidental and temporary. The Magistrate (Mr. Fordham) did not agree with the defence. It was unfortunate, he said, that Messrs. Allen & Hanburys should be summoned for what looked like the negligence of a

servant, because he (the Magistrate) had seen the defendants' locomotive going up and down the road without showing any smoke. It was accidental, however, only inasmuch as it was exceptional, and therefore a very small fine would suffice—5*s.*, and 2*s.* costs.

The Royal Society.

Amongst the fifteen candidates who have been selected for election as Fellows of the Royal Society are three chemists—viz., Professor J. J. Dobbie, Dr. Hugh Marshall, and Professor Morris W. Travers. The first-named is M.A. Glasgow, D.Sc. Edin. He was professor of chemistry at University of North Wales, Bangor, and is now Director of the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art. He is the author of papers on corydaline and other alkaloids of *Corydalis cava*, and of recent work on a variety of other alkaloids. Dr. Marshall (D.Sc. Edin.) is lecturer on chemistry and on mineralogy and crystallography in the Edinburgh University. He in 1891 discovered the persulphates, and is author of a variety of papers on these, also of a number of papers on subjects of minor chemical interest. He was recently Keith prizeman of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, is a good experimenter, good teacher, and good fellow. The last sentence may also be fitly applied to Professor Travers, who shares with Sir William Ramsay the unique distinction of having discovered more elements than any other person living. Dr. Travers was an assistant with Sir William at University College in the researches on the inert gases of the atmosphere which followed the discovery of helium and argon. It was largely due to his manipulative skill and his knowledge of the liquefaction of gases that neon, xenon, and crypton were isolated. He is D.Sc. of London, and was recently appointed to his chief's old professorate at Bristol University College.

The Portsmouth Tragedy.

On February 25 the inquest on the death of four asylum patients at Portsmouth was concluded. The former hearings were reported in our issues of February 13 (page 261) and February 20 (page 298). Dr. Merry, the medical officer in charge of the asylum, was recalled. Asked about the alleged friction between the medical officers at the asylum, he said he had not the slightest personal ill-feeling towards either Dr. Watson or Dr. Henderson, but on principle he objected to lady doctors. Dr. Henderson also tendered further evidence regarding the filling of the dispensary-bottle from which the draughts were taken, but nothing material was added to the evidence as to who filled the bottle. The greatest interest was taken in the evidence of the analysts, and Mr. Edward Russell, B.Sc., F.I.C., public analyst for the borough of Portsmouth, said he had analysed the dispensing-bottle marked "I" and the phial marked "E," which latter contained a portion of the draught prepared for the patient named Amey, but who did not take it. The dispensing-bottle contained 12.7 gr. of chloral hydrate to the ounce, with from 4 to 5 gr. of pot. brom. In the phial was 192 gr. of chloral hydrate per oz., or 384 gr. to the full bottle, and there was but a faint trace of bromide. Therefore the contents of the phial marked "E" could not have been taken from the bottle marked "I" with the contents in its present form. The percentage of chloral hydrate in the dispensing-bottle was 2.88 and in the phial 44.1. If anyone had about half filled the phial with pure chloral and then filled it up with water, that would give about the strength he found, except as to the colouring-matter and the trace of bromide. He had received also three other bottles from the Coroner's officer. There were two Winchester quart bottles used as stock-bottles. One, marked "G," contained pure chloral, and the other, "H," contained chloral and potassium bromide, whilst "J" was a dispensing-bottle containing pure chloral. He analysed the contents of all three. The bottle marked "G" contained 437 gr. of chloral hydrate to the fluid ounce, and "H" 274 gr. of chloral hydrate and 31 gr. potassium bromide to the ounce. If the dispensing-bottle marked "I" were half filled from the Winchester quart bottle marked "H," and then filled up with water, it would contain about the right quantity of chloral hydrate, but not the right quantity of potassium bromide as found in the bottle. In potassium bromide there would be a difference of about one-seventh, or 10 gr. to the ounce. Under these circumstances, therefore,

it was not probable that the dispensing-bottle marked "I" containing the mixture as there now was filled from the stock-bottle marked "H." In reply to the Coroner, he said that if the bottle marked "I" had been originally filled with its proper solution of 15 gr. chloral hydrate, 15 gr. of bromide, and when nearly all used up the bottle had been half filled with pure chloral, and then filled with water, but afterwards tampered with by pouring off half the contents and filling it up again with water, it would probably give the solution he found. As to the bottle marked "J," which was the dispensing-bottle of pure chloral, that was similar in all respects to "G." Dr. Arthur Angell, public analyst for Hampshire, had also analysed the contents of the dispensing-bottle marked "I" and the phial containing Amey's draught, and he said that his analysis practically coincided with that of Dr. Russell. Dr. Lysander Maybury, who had made a *post-mortem* examination of the body of each of the four deceased women, said that chloral-poisoning was the cause of death in each case.

The Coroner (Mr. T. A. Bramsdon): Is it the custom amongst medical practitioners who dispense their own drugs to have qualified chemists as dispensers, or are they in many instances unqualified? Witness: As a rule they are qualified or they have had great experience to fit them for the duties required of them.

The Coroner: But as a rule they are qualified chemists? Witness: They are.

The Coroner, in summing up, said he attached no importance to the feeling which had been expressed between the doctors at the asylum, and thought Dr. Meriv's explanation that he objected on principle to lady doctors was a very reasonable one. The analyses, he pointed out, had established the fact that the draughts given to the deceased women contained 384 gr. of chloral hydrate instead of 30 gr. each of chloral hydrate and potassium bromide. If it were true that Dr. Watson took the draughts from the dispensing-bottle on the Wednesday, it was clear that between her taking them out and the time the bottle was sealed for analysis someone must have tampered with it, but they had not had the whole truth with regard to that—something had been kept back. The Coroner put to the jury eleven questions on the principal points raised by the evidence, and after an absence of fifty minutes the jury announced that they found that death was due to chloral-hydrate poisoning, the draughts having been taken from the dispensing-bottle. They were of opinion that this bottle, which was empty on the Wednesday morning, was refilled before the Thursday, but were unable to say by whom, and that it had been tampered with since the draughts were taken out. They thought proper care was exercised in the administration of draughts, and found no person guilty of gross criminal or culpable negligence, but that the deaths were the result of misadventure. By way of a rider, the jury expressed the opinion that the dispensing should in future be performed by a fully qualified person, and expressed their regret that the person or persons responsible for the filling of the dispensing-bottle had not the moral courage to come forward.

Birmingham Notes.

Sir Oliver Lodge finds two additional lectures necessary to complete his course on "Physics and Therapeutics" before the medical profession of Birmingham and district. His theme ought to act as a spur to the sale of electrical and medical appliances by pharmacists.

The 19th annual exhibit of the Birmingham Photographic Society was opened at the Society of Artists' Rooms on February 27. About 800 exhibits were sent in and 260 were rejected. The Warwickshire photographic survey occupies chief place amongst the pictures, and the silver medal has been secured by a lady.

A farmer's son, writing to the "Birmingham Post," recommends for fluke in sheep a mixture consisting of an ounce of podophyllum-root in half a gallon of water boiled well or simmered before the fire. The dose is two tablespoonfuls on two successive mornings, to be taken cold, and the dose to be repeated at the end of the week.

Mr. R. Hollick, chemist and druggist, is a very useful member of the Warwickshire County Council, especially in their dealings with the Food and Drugs Acts. Mr. Hollick

was appointed on this special committee, and has been the means of preventing many little pinpricks which might otherwise have disturbed his own craft by reason of unchecked official zeal.

A slight error occurred in the announcement made last week of Mr. F. H. Prosser's purchase of the two remaining businesses of Morris, Banks & Co. (Limited). The businesses he purchased are the one at 112 and 114 Spring Hill and the one at Hagley Road. The High Street business was purchased some time ago by Messrs. Boots (Limited).

Messrs. Freemans & Green (Limited), veterinary chemists, Phoenix Mills, Farm Street, Birmingham, have purchased the patent-right's, stock, machinery, and goodwill of Lawry's Patents (Limited), London, and the agricultural appliances made by that firm will in future be manufactured at and supplied direct from the Phoenix Mills, Birmingham.

Mr. C. J. Woodward read an interesting paper on "Materials used in Birmingham Manufactures" at the Institute Scientific Society last week, and enumerated a goodly number of pharmaceutical substances in his list. These included argol, rouge, tripoli, colcothar, lac, lactic acid, and the common mineral acids, brownish-liquor (liq. ferri perchlor.), and etching-water (hydrofluoric acid).

The sudden wintry weather has changed the aspect of chemists' windows, chest-protectors, peppermint lozenges, cough and bronchial remedies being now prominent. An effective circular, entitled "Stop that cough," is issued by a many-branched firm. It represents a huge policeman with hand upraised keeping back a motley crowd of people apparently suffering from unusually distressing coughs.

In his "Tales of Eighty Years" Colonel Thomson relates that he was sent to a private school at Putney, where every half-year the lads "were marched up to Carmalt's desk two and two. Two glasses of a horrid compound of bark were on the desk, and an usher stood on each side. We had to drink the dose, turn to the usher and put out our tongues to show that we had swallowed it. This was charged in our account, 'Wine, 5s.'"

The Hagley Road shop, now passing into the hands of Messrs. Prosser, is opposite Lightwoods Park, the recently acquired popular resort which was made over a free gift to the Corporation by Mr. A. M. Chance, chemical-manufacturer. Business premises in the neighbourhood have increased in value as a consequence. The neighbourhood is growing rapidly, and is well supplied with chemists Messrs. Bellamy & Wakefield having a nice corner pharmacy hard by.

The city of Birmingham has during the past few years been singularly unfortunate in the matter of accidental substitution in pharmacy. The mistake alluded to by the city analyst in his report (see *C. & D.*, February 27, page 331) has occurred several times. Arsenic has been sold for arrowroot, zinc sulphate for Epsom salts, sodium nitrate for potassium nitrate, and aqua rosæ concentrata (1-40) as "aqua rosæ," and charged accordingly.

A Guessing Competition.

Mr. A. E. Marshall, chemist and druggist, Worcester, has hit upon a novel advertising idea which pays for itself. He has had in his window for the past few weeks a huge block of coal, and invited the public generally to guess the weight of the block. He offers three prizes to the most successful guessers—the first, a Turkish-bath bowl with whisk and filled with Wright's coal-tar soap; the second, a Doulton's shaving-pot filled with Wright's coal-tar shaving-soap and a brush; and the third a box of Wright's coal-tar soap. The scheme is one which others might try with advantage to themselves and to the sale of Wright's coal-tar specialities.

The Bath Chemist's Lady Customer.

Curiosity was aroused to an unwonted degree in the proceedings on February 27 at the Police-court at Weston a residential suburb of Bath. The case that attracted attention was a prosecution against Mrs. Frances Lilian Godley, a lady of good social position, living at Combe Down, and said to be the daughter of a late Bath magistrate, who was charged with stealing a hair-brush and a tin of cigarettes, value about 3s. 6d., the property of Mr. John Herbert Hall, chemist, Combe Down. Mr. W. F. Provis, on behalf of Mr.

Hall, asked leave to withdraw the summons. Inquiries had been made since the lady was arrested, and Mr. Hall had come to the conclusion that she was a kleptomaniac, and not responsible for her actions. The Chairman of the Magistrates (Mr. E. T. D. Foxcroft) said Mr. Hall had put the law in motion, and the matter had got to a certain point; that was the difficulty. Mr. F. Glover, for the defence, supported the request made by Mr. Provis; but the Chairman reiterated that the difficulty was that the law had been set in motion. Mr. Glover said that Mr. Hall, having missed small articles for some little time, marked certain things, which were subsequently found in the defendant's possession. He called in the police, thinking it was an ordinary case of stealing, but now found that that was not so. The result was he had very kindly made a suggestion to the Bench without any proposals from the other side. Mr. Hall appealed personally to the Magistrates to accede to his request for the sake of the defendant's husband. The Chairman asked how he had now come to the conclusion that the lady acted under an irresistible influence which differentiated her action from dishonesty. Mr. Hall replied that it was because of what he heard from her husband. Mr. Godley, the defendant's husband, said he would be prepared to undertake to see that a similar thing did not occur again. There was no financial necessity for his wife to take the things. She was not very strong mentally. In answer to a question, he added that he believed he could bring medical evidence to substantiate his statement. The Magistrates adjourned the case in order that expert medical evidence should be called, the Chairman saying that they did not feel able to disturb the natural course of events without something of that kind.

Salary also Suspended.

The dispute between the Cardiff Board of Guardians and Mr. W. B. Taylor, their suspended dispenser, was again referred to at the meeting of the Board on February 27. A letter was read from Mr. Taylor stating that payment of his salary up to the date of his suspension had been refused to him, and as he was not a collector he asked that this refusal might be withdrawn, stating that it was distinctly illegal, and, moreover, he had a wife and children who were greatly in need of the money. The Clerk (Mr. Harris) explained that the cheque was withheld under Article 176 of the General Order of July 24, 1847, which stipulated that the Guardians shall not pay any officer under suspension until all his accounts have been properly audited; and although Mr. Taylor might not have had to collect any moneys he had had various drugs and stores in his possession on which stocktaking would have to take place. Upon the motion of the Chairman (Mr. C. H. Jones) the Clerk was instructed to write to Mr. Taylor and inform him of these facts, and state that his request for his salary could not be complied with. A letter was read from the Local Government Board intimating that they had instructed one of their inspectors to hold an inquiry into the allegations made against Mr. Taylor. This inquiry is to take place on March 4.

A Disagreement.

At Southwark Police Court on February 26, John Frederick Dunstan, dispenser and outdoor relief distributor, was summoned for assaulting Herbert Wright, relieving officer at the Southwark Relief Station, Borough High Street, S.E. Mr. Percy Robinson, for the complainant, said it was a quarrel between two officials in the same service. There were some accounts which one had to render to the other, and on February 13 Mr. Wright asked Mr. Dunstan if he would keep his account open till the following Saturday, because an applicant had not then come who might be expected to arrive later. The defendant refused in an offensive manner, accused Mr. Wright of interfering with his duty, called him a "low-bred cad," and proceeded to assault him by striking him on the face and body, tearing his hair and kicking him. He also menaced the complainant with a heavy pestle, but was disarmed. The complainant gave evidence in support of his solicitor's statement, and was sharply cross-examined by Mr. Sydney for the defence. He denied having been the aggressor, and declared that he was only a "passive resistor" of the defendant's violence. Witnesses having been called for the prosecution, the defendant swore that the

complainant first assaulted him, and was supported in this by other testimony. The Magistrate said it was a discreditable affair, and the summons was dismissed.

Chemists as Public Men.

Mr. P. G. W. Typke, chemical-manufacturer, of Lawn House, New Malden has been elected, unopposed, a member of the Surrey County Council.

Messrs. C. Goddard Clarke, T. H. W. Idris, and R. A. Robinson are seeking re-election to the London County Council for their respective constituencies.

Mr. John Brooks, chemist and druggist, has been re-elected unopposed as the representative of the Central East Ward of East Ham on Essex County Council.

Mr. George James Gostling, chemist and druggist, Stowmarket, has been elected to the East Suffolk County Council for the Stowmarket division for the ensuing triennial term.

Chemists' Licences.

The application of Mr. George Isaac Forrest, chemist and druggist, 223 St. Mary's Road, Sheffield, for an off wine-and-spirit licence has been refused.

At the Portsmouth Licensing Sessions on March 1, a wine (off) and sweets (off) licence for Woolmer Rudolph Donati White, chemist, 95 Fawcett Road, Southsea, was granted. A similar application by Mr. White for 197 New Road, Buckland, was also agreed to.

At the sitting of the Westminster City Council on February 25, the General Purposes Committee reported having considered a letter pointing out that the application of Govan Henry Scott for a wine-licence at 60 Old Compton Street which it was decided to oppose at the sitting of the Council on January 31 was merely an application made necessary by the Licensing Act to enable a chemist to carry on his business as before. Under these circumstances, they recommended that the opposition be withdrawn, and this was agreed to.

Sheffield Notes.

Mr. S. P. Whitehouse, chemist and druggist, who has held a temporary appointment with one of our leading pharmacists, has returned to Workington, where he has acquired the business of Messrs. G. D. Paterson & Co.

Local pharmacists have noted with peculiar interest the names on the back of the Pharmacy Bill, for were they not warned by Mr. Batty Langley, M.P., at their annual dinner that not a single member who backed the Bill on its introduction last session would be found willing to do so again?

Mr. J. Evans, A.I.C., who is to read a paper on "The Nutritive Value of Patent Foods" at the meeting of the Local Society on March 9, is on the staff of Mr. A. H. Allen, the city analyst, and his practical everyday knowledge of his subject will no doubt add considerably to the value of his paper.

The committee who have in hand the organisation of the pharmaceutical exhibits from this country at the St. Louis Exposition have obtained from Mr. John Austen, Ph.C., 27 High Street, the loan of a collection of old jars, which will appear under his name in the catalogue as follows:

Collection of eight ancient druggists' jars of white glazed earthenware, all of one size and shape; date, 1750-1850; the labels are gold and black, varnished over. Also ten white glazed jars (nine of one shape), with blue decorations of cupids, flowers, and fruit; date, 1650-1700.

The labels of the 1650-1700 jars are: B. Lucat., C. B. N.; S. Cordial; U. E. G. Elemei; El. Lenitiv; C. Berberor.; Cer. Epulot.; V. Enulatu; Ther. London.; C. Rosar. R.; Mithridat.

The Danger of Headache powders.

At an inquest at Halifax, on February 26, on the body of Mary Proctor (59), wife of a warehouseman, the deceased's husband said his wife had complained lately of shortness of breath. On the morning of her death she complained of a headache, and in the afternoon he gave her a Kaputine headache-powder. She went to bed, and shortly afterwards he found her lying dead in bed. Dr. J. Marshall, of Boothtown, said he had made a *post-mortem*, and found no sign of irritation of the stomach. In his opinion, death was due to

heart failure. He went on to say that headache-powders had a lowering effect on the heart and might affect the issue. These powders, he continued, were beneficial when taken with care by a healthy person, but, in his opinion, they were dangerous to people with weak hearts. A verdict of "Died from heart-failure" was returned.

Inter-pharmacy Football League.

The cup in the above competition is practically won by the Metropolitan College team. Though the competition is not yet finished, the "Metros." are too far ahead to be overhauled. The positions of the clubs up to date are:

Club	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals		Points
					For	Against	
Metros. ...	7	7	0	0	52	5	14
London	6	2	2	2	18	8	6
"Square" ...	4	1	2	1	16	16	3
Muter's ...	6	0	3	3	6	31	3
Westminster	5	1	4	0	3	35	2

The match between "Metros." and "Muter's" was played at Old Oak Farm, Shepherd's Bush, on February 27, and ended in an easy win for the "Metros." by 6 goals to *nil*.

Westminster v. London College was also played at Old Oak Farm, Shepherd's Bush, on February 27. The match resulted in a win for London by 6 goals to *nil*, Westminster playing only ten men.

Poisonings.

Twelve deaths from poisoning are reported this week, and, with the exception of the four patients at Portsmouth Asylum who were poisoned by chloral, they were all suicides. The Portsmouth verdict is given elsewhere, and the suicide of Mr. Gibbs, of Weymouth, is mentioned in our obituary columns. Laudanum was used as the death-medium by James Herbert Ambler, of Lister Hills, Bradford, and by Margaret Williams, of Liverpool. The latter first took laudanum and then cut her throat.—Charles Dowse, an old-established butcher at Workop who had fallen on evil times, drank carbolic acid to end his troubles; and carbolic acid was also taken by Joseph Bartlett, a wine-merchants' manager in Edgware Road, W.—James Stewart (54), of Keighley, wanted Mrs. Lucy Bell, a widow, to marry him, but she refused, and he poisoned himself with liquid ammonia.—Ellen Beasley, of Coleshill, obtained some vermin-killer from a local chemist to poison mice, but took it herself, and died from strychnine-poisoning.—A Yarmouth widow, named Martha Mary Church, died suddenly last week, and circumstances pointed to poisoning by oxalic acid.

Irish News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor

Personal.

Mr. George Reginald Sykes, who has been a member of the staff of the Cork Chemical and Drug Company (Limited) for some years past, was last week presented with a memento from his fellow-workers on the occasion of his departure for South Africa. Mr. D. Horgan, secretary of the company, made the presentation.

Drug-tenders Invited

Tenders are invited for the supply of medicines, &c., by the following public bodies, the date given in each case being the latest day on which tenders can be sent in: Killenny District Asylum (twelve months), March 14; Sligo District Lunatic Asylum, March 15; Waterford District Lunatic Asylum, March 5; Maryborough District Asylum, March 9; County Clare Infirmary, March 7; Coleraine Union,

March 19; Omagh, March 19; Jervis Street Hospital, Dublin, March 9; Edenderry Union, March 12; Rathmines and Pembroke Joint Hospital Board, Dublin, March 10; Kanturk Union, March 9; Stranorlar Union, March 14.

Scotch News.

Local newspapers containing marked items of news interesting to the trade are always welcomed by the Editor.

The Don Memorial.

The Memorial Committee has received numerous letters from subscribers in regard to this matter, and one of the original suggestions has been impressing itself forcibly on the mind of the committee, and may be adopted—namely, that the money subscribed should be laid aside, and out of the interest paid on it, if that be sufficient, some real encouragement would be given to the study of botany in a local school or schools.

Glasgow Notes.

Several chemists' businesses are advertised for sale in the local newspapers.

Physicians' private prescriptions continue to embarrass the chemist. "Aq. chlorof. sacch.," "Mist. alb.," and "Syrupus roborantis" are the latest examples.

A suburban chemist has been startled nearly out of his seven senses by a request for "thiocarbamide." He ranged the city in vain for the rarity, and is now hunting for it farther afield.

A start has been made with the spring trade in photographic goods. The chemists' window-displays are on a more elaborate scale than ever—an indication that this sideline is being developed.

Mr. J. P. Gilmour, Hon. Secretary of the local Pharmaceutical Association, writes that the exhibition of ophthalmological apparatus at the meeting on February 18 owed much to the contributions of Messrs. Raphael, Wheway & Redfern (Limited), London, and Mr. J. Baird, Glasgow.

At the annual dinner of the Old Glasgow Club the other night an octogenarian said he remembered the time when sedan-chairs were set out for hire in the centre of the city, and the principal shops, including even apothecaries' halls, were situated up or down a stair. In this connection it is interesting to recall that the late Mr. Daniel Frazer's "History of Buchanan Street" gives a capital account of the evolution of a thoroughfare as typical of the evolution of a city.

French News.

(From our Paris Correspondent.)

DIVISION OF LABOUR.—At Lille University (Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy) the chairs of "Natural History" and "Materia Medica" have been abolished. Two new chairs have been established: one of "Medical and Pharmaceutical Zoology" has been conferred on M. Verdun (late assistant professor), and the second, "Materia Medica and Botany," has been given to Dr. Fockev.

THE TREATMENT OF CANCER.—At the Paris Academy of Medicine on Monday last, Dr. Doyen, the well-known Paris surgeon, read an interesting and instructive paper regarding the result of three years' application of a method for treating cancer by injections of a serum obtained from the culture of the *Micrococcus neoformans*, the microbe of which the existence in certain tumours has been long known. Dr. Doyen mentioned that he had treated 126 cases since January 1, 1901. Of these he considers twenty-one patients are cured; fifty-eight were unfavourable in results through the patient declining to continue the treatment, or because it was commenced at too late a stage; but of forty-seven cases that remain under observation, eighteen may be considered as

successful and the other twenty-nine require to be treated for some time longer before a definite opinion can be formed as to the results of the injection of serum.

THE ORIGINATOR OF THE METRIC SYSTEM.—Lord Kelvin seems to have claimed this honour for James Watt. I have not his dates before me, but in 1788 a French barrister (*avocat au Parlement*), who bore the name of Collignon, published a book of 252 pages, entitled, "Discovery of Exact, Natural, Invariable, and Universal Standards for the Reduction of all Weights and Measures (the Measure of Time included) to Perfect Uniformity." The "half-thickness of the hand" is Collignon's unit. It is supposed to be the "billionth part of the globe," and is an exact decimal sub-multiple of the meridian—*i.e.*, 4 millimetres. This was to be divided into 100 "ordinary" or 1,000 "microscopic" points. Circumferences are divided into 1,000 degrees. The day is divided into ten hours, each of 100 minutes, the minute containing 1,000 seconds, and the second 1,000 "tierces." This "tierce," we are assured, "is exactly equal to the microscopic point of the earth which the sun appears to travel" in that period.

THE METRIC SYSTEM IN FRENCH PHARMACY.—It is interesting to note that at the first French official Codex (1818), although printed entirely in Latin, was exclusively metric. In the 1837 edition the old nomenclature of grains, scruples, "gros" (drachms), ounces, and pounds is resorted to, although the weights are "rounded off," and the grain is thus made to equal 5 centigrams and the pound 500 grams. In the third (1866) edition the metric system reappears alone; probably to avoid those pharmaceutical slips between "grains" and "grams," to which Lord Lansdowne so amusingly alluded, every value is expressed in letters as well as figures, thus "virgt grams, 20 grs." This Codex is a veritable work of reference to the student of weights and measures. The revisers not only give comparative tables of metric and old French weights, but actually cite the metric equivalents of the weights and measures of all the leading European nations.

ENGLISH PRESCRIPTIONS ABROAD.—Mr. E. H. Martlew, "qualified professional chemist, three diplomas," who has "worked in six foreign pharmacies and visited hundreds of others," reminds the "New York Herald" readers that it is not difficult to get a prescription put up by a qualified Englishman at Paris or on the Riviera. The English-born assistants number ten or fifteen at Nice, five or six at Cannes, five at Mentore, two at Hyères. At Monte Carlo there is always a fully qualified man at Cruzel's, and M. Plissonnier (although formerly an assistant at Bell's in Oxford Street) keeps an English assistant also. Perhaps the kernel of the discussion is contained in the phrase "Of course, patients who go to native shops in back streets in the hope of getting reduced prices must expect to get the wrong drug almost every time." Mr. Martlew pleads for an International Pharmacopoeia in Latin, and for legible prescriptions in the same language. Another correspondent puts the difficulty of making up prescriptions down to the bad writing of the physician. In common fairness I must confess (writes our Paris correspondent) that it is idle to aver that an intelligent French pharmacist, on account of his educational advantages, cannot learn British pharmacy in a very short time. I am afraid some of the misunderstanding that arises is due to the desire of some tourists to get their medicines at as cheap a rate as possible. Their desire to get drugs at store prices often causes them to patronise second or third rate pharmacies, with the result that risks are run that are dear at any price.

American Notes.

THE METRIC SYSTEM OPPOSED.—At a recent meeting of the board of directors of the Merchants' Association of New York a resolution was adopted in opposition to the Bill now before Congress for the compulsory use of the metric system.

ANOTHER PHARMACY BILL.—The District Commissioners have approved an elaborate Bill designed to regulate the practice of pharmacy and the sale of poisons in the district

of Columbia, which has been drafted by a committee of the Commissioners of Pharmacy, and the measure has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Gallinger and in the House by Representative Babcock.

GENERAL CHEMICAL COMPANY.—The annual report of the General Chemical Company for the year ending December 31, 1903, showed net profits of \$1,187,076, compared with \$1,507,551 in 1902. A surplus of only \$583, after dividends and charges, is exhibited, compared with a surplus for 1902 of \$377,036. President William H. Nichols says: "The results of the ten years of the company for the year have not borne out the anticipations of the directors."

NEW YORK CHEMICAL IMPORTS.—Among the imports at New York in 1903 were 49,369 lbs. bismuth, 940,662 lbs. barium sulphate, 67,480 tons crude chalk, 642,616 lbs. precipitated chalk, 15,139 tons china clay, 66,687 lbs. cobalt oxide, 3,103 tons fullers' earth, 637,184 lbs. lithophane, 346,200 lbs. mica, 8,062,051 lbs. ochre, 979,829 lbs. ozokerite, 3,765,083 lbs. potassium carbonate, 198,432 lbs. potassium permanganate, 1,793,876 lbs. potassium prussiate, 112,154 lbs. sodium hyposulphite, 298,886 lbs. sodium nitrite, 5,239,448 lbs. talc, 1,048,976 lbs. ceresin, and 1,396,310 lbs. zinc oxide. Great Britain and Germany furnished the bulk of these imports.

DUTY-FREE CASSIA OIL.—Messrs. Fritzsche Bros., essential-oil importers, New York, appealed to the Board of Appraisers in regard to the importation of cassia oil which was assessed for duty at the rate of 25 per cent. ad valorem under paragraph 3 of the Tariff Act, as a chemical compound. Messrs. Fritzsche claimed free entry under the provisions of paragraph 626 as oil of cassia. General Appraiser Fischer, in giving his decision in favour of the firm, says oil of cassia, commercially so known, produced by a chemical process from other materials than cassia buds, is entitled to entry free of duty under paragraph 626. He lays down the rule that when an article is shown to have a certain commercial designation, a tariff provision for merchandise of that name covers it, although said article may be the result of a chemical process in which different materials or ingredients are substituted for the substance from which the article was in former times made, provided, however, that the resultant of the process is a product that differs from the original article in no respect save origin and composition.

THE BALTIMORE FIRE.—Further particulars of the great fire at Baltimore show that various wholesale drug-houses and a large number of retail stores suffered considerably. The establishments of Sharp & Dohme and Gilpin, Langdon & Co. were out of the line of fire, and escaped. The branch of Parke, Davis & Co. was completely burned out, entailing a loss of \$50,000, covered by insurance. The wholesale drug-firms that were completely wiped out include Carr, Owens & Heinmann, James Bailey & Son, Muth Brothers & Co., and the Stanley & Brown Drug Company. A. C. Meyers & Co., patent-medicine vendors, were destroyed, the loss being computed at \$150,000. Others within the burned zone who suffered considerably were the Amyl-Kyo Chemical Company, Caffeeno Drug Company, Carrollton Chemical Company, Crown Chemical Company, Davison Chemical Company, Dermolia Manufacturing Company, Gordshell Chemical Company, Hance Drug Company, Holmes Drug Company, Kahn Miller Drug Company, McCormick & Co., Nelaton Remedy Company, Parrish & Co., Strentia Mineral Spring Company, and Tinctur Anal Company (Limited).

TO MAKE THEM CAREFUL.—A notice on the blackboard at the United Chemical-works, Lempoldshall, Germany, has created some sensation. The firm has decided that in future their workmen are to be fined 1m. each time they meet with an accident, and the heads of the department in which the accident occurs are to be mulcted to the tune of 2m.!

BENGAL CHEMICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL WORKS.—The directors have declared a dividend of 5 per cent., and have set aside the balance (not stated) for the purchase of new machinery. They also intend to erect a plant for the purpose of manufacturing the most important mineral acids and such other chemicals as can be conveniently obtained directly from them. The shareholders have agreed to increase their capital by Rs. 50,000.

East Indian News.

SULPHURIC ACID IN INDIA.—As a result of complaints that the traffic in sulphuric acid has been hampered in India by the regulation regarding packing and the weight of the acid to be carried by the railway, modifications of the existing rules have been published which show that the acid may now be packed in strong, hermetically sealed iron and steel drums, which must be in good condition, the limit of weight of such packages being fixed at 5 maunds.

THE CARRIAGE OF NITRIC ACID.—A case by Messrs. Walker, Sons & Co. against Mr. Michel de Jong, at the Colombo Police Court, on a charge of committing a negligent act, was heard on January 21. It was stated that amongst the cases shipped by Messrs. de Jong was one containing nitric acid which had not been declared. A fire occurred on the steamer (the *s.s. Lady Gordon*), and a nitric acid jar was found broken. Had the acid been declared, more care would have been taken with it. Captain J. A. Legge said he found the package of nitric acid charred, as produced in court. He could not speak to the action of nitric acid, but that acid was, he could say from his experience, always stowed on deck on merchant ships. Under the English Shipping Act, nitric acid had to be declared, and there were heavy penalties attaching to its shipment undeclared. A wharf clerk of Messrs. de Jong said he had received orders from the accused to go to the dispenser and get particulars of some cases of medicines to be shipped. He did not think the accused knew at that time that nitric acid was going in the cases. The defence was that there was no duty to declare nitric acid, which was not a dangerous substance. It was no more than a civil liability. Mr. Kelway Bamber, the Government chemist, after an adjournment, gave evidence of the combustible character of nitric acid when brought in contact with organic matter. The defence submitted that nitric acid, on the evidence, was not combustible in itself, and, consequently, defendant could not be held criminally liable. The Magistrate rejected this contention, found the accused guilty, and fined him Rs 100.

THE FLOODS IN MADRAS.—The heavy rainfall has been by no means confined to the British Empire proper, and during December of last year it reached abnormal proportions in Madras. A storm raged for three days, and the



town was flooded, the rainfall being nearly 10 inches. Many public buildings were under water, and business in the streets was carried on with difficulty. The Cooum, usually a placid, puddly stream with pools of stagnant water in its bed in the upper reaches, became in two days a rushing torrent, and on the third day the stream had topped the arches of the numerous bridges, overflowing into the surrounding districts. The illustration here gives a very good idea of the state of affairs in the streets. The picture shows the condition of things in the neighbourhood of the imposing premises of Messrs. W. E. Smith & Co., pharmaceutical chemists, in Mount Road and Royapettah.

Colonial and Foreign News.

CONTRABAND OF WAR.—Among the articles which are considered contraband of war by Russia we find the following: Saltpetre, sulphur, explosives or material for the purposes of explosion, pyroxylin.

ADRENALIN TRADE-MARK.—In a letter to a Berlin contemporary, Messrs. Parke, Davis & Co. explain that "Adrenalin Takamine" was registered as a trade-mark in Austria-Hungary on January 11, 1904.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS IN PERSIA.—A report of the Belgian representative in Teheran on the Persian import in drugs and medicaments states that the yearly consumption in Persia of quinine salts is estimated at about 10,000 kilos. Compressed drugs, pills, tablets, &c., are obtained chiefly from England. There is a large demand in Persia for salts of mercury and medicinal wines.

NEW DUTCH TARIFF.—A new Customs tariff is shortly to be presented to the States-General. It exempts from duty raw materials for manufactures and agriculture. A small duty is imposed on partly manufactured articles, and duties ranging from 6 to 12 per cent. *ad valorem* on wholly manufactured goods, the highest charges being on articles of luxury. The duties on perfumery are increased.

GERMAN COLONIAL INDUSTRIAL EXPERTS.—Forty German Chambers of Commerce are taking steps to organise committees of experts in industrial matters connected with the colonies. Berlin, Barmen, Chemnitz, and Wiesbaden have already appointed such committees. Bremen, Dresden, Hamburg, Hanover, Cologne, München-Gladbach, Plauen, Reutlingen, and Schweidnitz will carry on the work of experts, partly by means of additions to the present organisations and partly by appointing referees connected with such subjects.

CAMPHOR AND OPIUM MONOPOLIES.—The Japanese newspaper "Asahi" reports that a compromise has been effected between Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co. and the Mitsui Bursan Kaisha in the matter of business rivalry in Formosa. Both these leading firms possess equal privileges in the matter of the sale of opium, but in the camphor-business the sole privilege is in the hands of Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co. A compromise has been effected on the understanding that the opium-privilege is to be solely vested in the Mitsui Bursan Kaisha, while the sole camphor-privilege of Messrs. Samuel Samuel & Co. is not to be disturbed.

ADULTERATION OF PRODUCE.—The British Board of Trade have received a copy of the "Adulteration of Produce Regulations, 1903," which were issued by H.M. Consul-General at Zanzibar on October 7, 1903. They provide that—

No person shall falsify, deteriorate, conceal the inferior quality of, mix or add water or any foreign, superfluous, or inferior substance with, or in any mode or way adulterate any cloves, copra, or dry cocoanuts, chillies, or any other produce whatsoever, whether grown in Zanzibar or elsewhere, and whether in its raw state or partly or wholly prepared or manufactured.

Any person contravening these regulations will be liable to punishment, and the adulterated produce will be liable to confiscation.

RUSSIAN CUSTOMS DUTIES.—The "Russian Gazette" of January contained a notice about the proposed new Customs tariff, in the course of which it is stated that the new commercial treaty between Russia and Germany has tended to a more accurate grouping of chemico-pharmaceutical preparations. It will strike many of the leading curative compounds with high tariffs. Expensive things, such as quinine, cocaine, morphia, caffeine preparations, atropine, codeine, and certain other alkaloids, are to be taxed 80r. per pood in place of 2r. 25kop.; iodoform, 30r. per pood instead of 16r.; antipyrin, phenactin, sulphonal, &c., are to bear 22r. per pood; and iodine preparations and salts of bismuth 20r. per pood; salicylic preparations 12r. per pood; salts of mercury, 10r. per pood; and bromide preparations 6r. per pood. The writer of the article estimates that the increase will mean a difference of about 4 000 000r. (400,000l.) to the country and town authorities in their expenditure on public health.

Westminster Wisdom.

(From our Parliamentary Representative.)

THE PHARMACY BILL

was introduced by Mr. Lough on Monday, and has been provisionally put down for second reading on Monday, the 21st. The Bill is a measure to alter and amend the Pharmacy Acts of 1852 and 1868, and is strongly backed. The promoters inform me that it proceeds very much on the lines of the Bill of last session which was brought forward by the same hon. member. It has been strengthened, however, in certain particulars, and notably in Clause 6, which deals with the registration of persons in respect of one shop only. The principal object of the Bill is to secure that every shop where poisons are sold shall be under the *bona-fide* conduct and supervision of a duly qualified person. The Bill also seeks to put an end to the abuses at present attending the hawking of poisons and to better regulate their sale by providing that no poison shall be sold except in a shop which shall first have been duly registered. Provision is also made for the maintenance of a register of shops where poisons are retailed, and also of duly qualified chemists conducting such shops. Another provision is that companies keeping open shops for the sale of poisons shall be managed by duly qualified chemists. The Bill also seeks to facilitate the examination of persons desiring to qualify as chemists and druggists, and to enable the Pharmaceutical Society to accept certain certificates of kindred bodies in lieu of examination. The measure is described as "A Bill to provide for the further regulation of the sale of poisons and the compounding of medical prescriptions, and to amend the Pharmacy Acts 1852 and 1868.*"

QUALIFIED DIRECTORS.

Mr. O'Malley has given notice of his intention to ask Mr. Balfour on Monday whether he will consider the advisability of adopting for Great Britain a measure similar to the Ordinance lately promulgated for the Orange River Colony, which prohibits a firm, co-partnership, or company carrying on the business of a pharmaceutical chemist in the dispensing of medicines or the compounding of poisons unless the directors are qualified persons.

THE GOVERNMENT AND PHARMACY LEGISLATION.

Sir Thomas Dewar asked the President of the Local Government Board on Monday whether his attention had been called to a coroner's inquest, held at Southampton on February 23, when the jury, in returning a verdict of death by misadventure, added a rider that the sellers of acids and all poisons should be compelled to label the vessel with the name of the substance it contained and the word "Poison," and that no poison should be sold to young children except in sealed bottles. Sir Thomas Dewar, in directing attention to this, asked if the question of legislation on the subject would receive the consideration of the Local Government Board.

Mr. Ailwyn Fellowes, representing the Board of Agriculture, asked leave to answer the question. He was not, he said, aware of the fact of the particular case referred to, but as to further legislation with regard to the sale of poisons he referred Sir Thomas Dewar to the statement made by the Prime Minister on March 4, 1903, indicating that the matter only awaited a favourable opportunity.

[The statement of the Prime Minister referred to arose out of a question put by Colonel Long to the First Lord of the Treasury. The member for Evesham, it will be remembered, called attention to the report of the Departmental Committee of the Privy Council on Schedule A of the Pharmacy Act, 1868, and asked whether, in view of its effect on agriculture, the Government proposed to bring in a Bill to give effect to its recommendations. Mr. Balfour in his reply intimated that the report was "under consideration with a view to legislation at the earliest opportunity."]

* Substantially the Bill is last year's measure *plus* the saving clause in respect to medical practitioners. We retain our representative's description of the measure because it gives a good insight into the feeling "in the House."—EDITOR.

THE METRIC SYSTEM.

A parliamentary paper was issued this week giving the views of the various governors and administrators of the British Colonies on the proposal to introduce the metric system throughout the empire. On the whole the answers are favourable to the scheme. Mr. Watts, the analytical and agricultural chemist of the Leeward Islands, sets forth his view at great length, but his remarks are mainly of a general character. He points out that in the Leeward Islands there are a few existing circumstances presenting difficulties in the way of transition from the existing system to the metric system; the trade of the Colony consists in exporting sugar, molasses, cacao, lime-juice, and similar goods more easily dealt with under a decimal system than under the present irregular one. Mr. E. J. Warren, chemist, St. Helena, has also been approached on the subject. His views are set forth in the following letter to Mr. Chamberlain:

The Pharmacy, Jamestown.

SIR—In reply to your circular *re* adoption of metric weights and measures, it is probably known to you that with reference to pharmacy it has been adopted on an equal footing with our own weights since 1898, and has proven itself the preferable, inasmuch as it ensures a more accurate result in dealing with small quantities to the fourth place of decimals.

With regard to general commerce, however, there must be many and great difficulties in the way of its adoption, but as it seems to be inevitable, it but remains to discuss those methods by which it can be introduced with least inconvenience.

The difficulties are increased in this Colony owing to the fact that, taking the inhabitants as a whole, they might almost be termed "illiterate," while in many cases those engaged in trade are very little better, and that little a constant danger to themselves.

Knowing these things from a lengthy experience, one would be inclined to suggest a much slower method of adoption than in those places where folk are more highly educated, such as:

(1) A term of five or seven years during which the metric system should be taught compulsorily at all schools by those thoroughly acquainted with it, both theoretically and practically.

(2) To be followed by a term of one or two years during which those engaged in trade might be allowed the option of using either system.

(3) If not *ultra vires*, the establishment of evening instruction classes, at which those desirous might acquaint themselves with the system.

This latter would in this Colony seem almost a necessity.

I remain, &c.,

E. J. WARREN.

NAVAL HOSPITAL CHARGES.

The Navy Estimates for 1904-5 show the following items as compared with 1903-4:

Hospital and infirmary provisions, and stores, medicines, and instruments, 150,700*l.*, being an increase of 21,500*l.*

Salaries and allowances for twenty dispensers (increase of one), 3,775*l.* (in 1903-4, 3,508*l.*).

The dispensers' pay begins at 110*l.*, and rises by 5*l.* biennially to 130*l.*, then by 10*l.* biennially to 230*l.* The estimates include 404*l.* for three at Melville, 803*l.* and 130*l.* allowances for six at Haslar, 578*l.* and 95*l.* allowances for four at Plymouth, 159*l.* and 20*l.* allowance for the Haulbowline dispenser, 335*l.* and 125*l.* allowances for two at Malta, 120*l.* and 70*l.* allowance for the Bermuda dispenser, 120*l.* and 80*l.* allowance for the Jamaica one, 212*l.* and 120*l.* allowances for the Cape of Good Hope, and 127*l.* and 205*l.* allowances for Hong-Kong. Five dispensary-hands are also employed in the service on a wages-basis.

New Books.

Gadd, H. Wippell. *Drugs: their Production, Preparation, and Properties.* 8vo. Pp. xii + 180. 5s. net. (Baillière, Tindall & Cox.)

Who's Who, 1904. 7½ x 4½. Pp. xx. + 1,700. 7s. 6d. net. (A. & C. Black.)

[This popular annual extends to 1,700 pages, and contains several thousand biographies of persons who have made a mark in the world. The record is made up to September 15, 1903, and it is noticeable that the book, which we find well-nigh indispensable, is now devoted solely to biographies, the extraneous matter being separately published.]

The Pharmacy Bill.

THE FEDERATION CIRCULAR.

MR. W. WATSON-WILL, F.C.S., F.L.S., Hon. Secretary and Treasurer of the Federation of Local Pharmaceutical Associations, 162 Kennington Park Road, London, S.E., writes:

Since I remitted the letter to the members of Parliament (see *C. & D.*, February 27, page 369) I have received replies from the undermentioned, who have in some cases positively promised to support the Bill, and others are to give it their very careful and serious consideration:

The Right Hon. A. J. Balfour (Prime Minister).
 Captain C. B. Balfour.
 Sir George C. T. Bartley, K.C.B.
 Dr. F. Rutherford-Harris.
 Dr. Charles F. Hutchinson.
 Rowland Hunt, Esq.
 A. H. Aylmer Morton, Esq.
 Sir Robert G. C. Mowbray, Bart.
 J. S. Randles, Esq.
 H. J. Re-kitt, Esq.
 Captain J. Sinclair.
 Sir Ernest Spencer.
 Colonel Sir C. E. Howard Vincent, K.C.M.G., C.B.
 H. J. Wilson, Esq.
 Right Hon. Walter H. Long (President of the Local Government Board).
 Right Hon. C. Scott Dickson, K.C. (Lord Advocate).

I send you this for publication as an incentive to chemists to approach the members of the House and thus stimulate them to support this much-desired Bill. W.W.

THE COMPANY CLAUSE.

We have communicated this week with the managing directors of the principal company-chemists in Great Britain, calling attention to the Orange River Colony Pharmacy Ordinance, and especially the company and firm section thereof. We asked for an expression of their opinion on the subject. Mr. Jesse Boot is, we are informed, on the Continent, but the matter has been referred to him. We hope to find room for more replies next week:

Henry Hodder & Co. (Limited),
 Broad Street, Bristol,
 March 2, 1904.

DEAR SIR,—I have read the section in *THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST* of February 27. It appears to me that the object of this section is to provide that the managing director or the manager of a firm, co-partnership, or company should be a qualified chemist, and that no poisons should be sold or prescriptions dispensed, except by, or under the supervision of, a person who is a qualified chemist. Personally, I think that this is a very proper provision, and I consider that in England all chemists' shops should be managed by duly qualified men, and that the management of the business should be in the hands of a qualified chemist also.

I observe that the section specially provides that ordinary directors, whose management merely extends to taking part in the proceedings of ordinary or special meetings of the board, shall not be required to be qualified. This appears to me to be an extremely sensible provision; indeed, I cannot, after many years' experience, understand upon what ground anyone can contend that it is necessary that all the directors should be qualified as chemists, provided that the business is conducted by a qualified manager or managing director, and that there is a qualified man in charge of each shop.

I may say that in our company we have a qualified manager in every branch, and in many instances the assistant or assistants are also qualified. Yours truly,

EDMUND CARPENTER, M.P.S.,
 Managing Director.

Canadian Notes.]

POTASH-INSPECTORS.—The Montreal Board of Trade reports that inspectors have now been appointed for potashes and pearlshes as follows: Messrs. S. Cookson, R. Lacy Dillon, Henry Dobell, W. S. Kerry, and W. S. Paterson. This is a change for which the Board of Trade has been contending for some time, as the abolition of inspection has led to a large amount of adulteration.

A HOCKEY-MATCH was recently played at the Minto Rink, Montreal, between the staff of Messrs. Evans & Sons (Limited) and that of Messrs. Kerry, Watson & Co. The former were victorious by 4 goals to 2.

RADIUM DISCOVERED.—Some time ago it was stated that radium had been discovered by Mr. J. Obalski in a uranium mineral. Mr. Obalski submitted a specimen of the mineral for examination by Professor Rutherford, of McGill University, who has declared that it contains radium in workable quantity, and it compares with the best pitchblende used in Europe. The mineral comes from an old mica-mine, back of Murray Bay, in the county of Charlevoix, Quebec.

THE PHARMACIE LABORIEUSE OF MONTREAL have abandoned their usual annual dining-celebration, and this year essayed a change in the form of amateur theatricals, which took place at the Monument Nationale. The result was entirely satisfactory, as the acting of the amateurs was of a very high order, and the effort of the pharmacists was much enjoyed by the large audience present. The singing of several pieces was also very much enjoyed, and the Pharmacie Laborieuse will profit considerably by the enterprise.

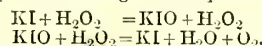
THE DRUGGISTS' SECTION of the Retail Merchants' Association, Toronto, held their annual meeting in the last week of January, and elected officers for the ensuing year as follows: Chairman, Mr. A. E. Walton; First Vice-Chairman, Mr. W. J. A. Carnahan; Second Vice-Chairman, Dr. Munro; Treasurer, Mr. G. D. Reid; Secretary, Mr. G. M. Petrie; Chairman of Contract, Mr. John Hargreaves; of Membership, Mr. J. W. Struthers; of Pharmacy, Mr. C. H. Cowen; of Entertainment, Mr. Geo. Marshall; and of Trade-improvement Committee, Mr. A. E. Walton.

THE ANNUAL SUPPER AND DANCE of Messrs. Kerry, Watson & Co., wholesale druggists, came off at Welsh's Hall, Montreal, recently, when seventy-five guests were present. Speeches were made by Messrs. J. Harper, W. C. Blundell, and J. A. Findlay. Owing to Mr. Kerry's illness, he was unable to be present. The following contributed to the musical portion of the entertainment: Miss Jordan, Miss Wilson, and Messrs. Geo. Porter, Rogers, Fisher, Findlay, Woodford, Blundell, Laferrière, and Ed. H. Layton. Mr. Mervin Fisher was master of ceremonies.

Scientific Progress.

New Remedies.—Enmydria is the methyl-nitrate combination of atropine, and is suggested as a superior mydriatic to the ordinary salts of atropine. It is a white, odourless, tasteless powder, soluble in water. Jatrevin is a condensation-product of menthol and isobutyl-phenol. It is suggested as a useful remedy for inhalation purposes in cases of tuberculosis.

Potassium Iodide and Hydrogen Peroxide.—The reaction between these substances in neutral aqueous solution has been the subject of frequent investigation. According to experiments of Walton, it appears to be established that the decomposition of the hydrogen peroxide with the evolution of oxygen is due to a catalytic action of the iodine ions. The production of small quantities of iodine and alkali makes it probable that hypoidite is formed as an intermediate product, the chief reaction taking place according to the equations—



The second reaction takes place with very great velocity in comparison with the first.—*Nature*, 69, 1791.

Camphor Synthesis.—Schindelmeyer ("Journ. Soc. Phys. Chim. Russ." 1903, 954) has investigated the most favourable conditions for the formation of camphor by the action of oxalic acid on pinene (compare *C. & D.*, February 13, page 289). He finds that the greatest yield of borneol is obtained when the temperature does not exceed 110° C. If the temperature be higher the amount of condensation-products formed is much larger. He states that the highest yield obtainable under most favourable conditions is 70 grams of borneol from 350 grams of pinene. It is suggested that this yield, apart from further loss in converting the borneol into camphor is against the remunerative production of synthetic camphor. He points out, too, that borneol may be produced economically from the oil of *Abies siberica*, which contains from 36 to 50 per cent. of bornyl acetate, which is easy to separate from the pinene and camphor present.

Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain.

COUNCIL-MEETING.

A FULL two-hours' work occupied the Council at their meeting on Wednesday. The President had so far recovered from his recent illness as to be present, although he has not yet taken up the full measure of his duties. Mr. A. S. Campkin, of Cambridge, was co-opted a member of the Council, in place of the late Mr. John Taylor. From the Benevolent Fund, grants amounting to 61*l.* were made, and further special subscriptions were announced. In the Library, &c., Committee's report the question was raised of drafting a regulation in regard to Bell scholars who pass the Minor before the end of the course. It is considered that the scholarship should in that event terminate, as the scholars have not obtained the educational advantages contemplated by the founders. A pharmaceutical laboratory is in course of being fitted up in Galen Place, and Mr. Hills is to act with Mr. Carteighe and the Dean of the School in the matter. The annual meeting of the Society is to be held on May 18. Mr. Carteighe announced that the Pharmacy Bill was introduced into the House of Commons on February 29 by Mr. Lough, and that the Parliamentary Committee are taking steps to educate the medical members of Parliament as to the provisions of the Bill. Mr. Glyn-Jones asked about the recent concession by the Inland Revenue, by which unqualified persons are to be regarded for revenue purposes as chemists. He was informed that the President and Mr. Carteighe are to see the officials at Somerset House on the matter, as it had been previously arranged that the Inland Revenue authorities would consult the Pharmaceutical Society when subjects affecting chemists were under consideration. Mr. Gifford introduced a motion for the appointment of an Organising Secretary, and, after an amendment or two, it was eventually decided that the General Purposes Committee consider the advisability of such an appointment. Dr. Symes presented a motion as to inserting a clause in the Medical Acts Amendment Bill giving pharmacists a status in preparing the Pharmacopœia. There was a little doubt as to what Bill was referred to, and the motion was eventually emasculated into a request that the General Purposes Committee consider the present position of pharmacists in Pharmacopœia revision, and report to the Council in due course.

The monthly Council-meeting was held on March 2 at 16 Bloomsbury Square, W.C. There were present the President (Mr. S. R. Atkins), the Vice-President (Mr. C. B. Allen), Treasurer (Mr. Walter Hills), and Messrs. M. Carteighe, A. Cooper, O. Corder, W. G. Cross, W. L. Currie, R. L. Gifford, W. S. Glyn-Jones, J. F. Harrington, G. T. W. News-holme, C. J. Park, R. A. Robinson, C. Symes, A. C. Wootton, and J. R. Young. A letter had been received from Mr. Harrison accounting for his absence through an attack of rheumatism, and Mr. Storrar and Mr. Southall asked to be excused.

The minutes of the previous meeting having been taken as read and confirmed,

The PRESIDENT said letters had been received from the members of the family of the late Mr. John Taylor expressing warm appreciation of the Council's sympathy.

The VICE-PRESIDENT here rose and welcomed the President back again after his recent painful illness.

The PRESIDENT expressed his obligation for the sympathy he had received from the members of the Council, and also thanked the Vice-President for the most efficient way in which he had carried on the duties of his (the President's) office.

MR. CAMPKIN CO-OPTED.

The TREASURER proposed that Mr. Algernon Sidney Campkin, of Cambridge, be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Council caused by the death of Mr. John Taylor. Mr. Campkin is well known, and has considerable business capacity and experience. At the annual meetings of the Society Mr. Campkin had appeared as a critic, but not an ungenerous one. He is a justice of the peace, and has been a member of the Town Council for some years, besides holding a position of great importance in what is known as the Manchester Unity.

The PRESIDENT, in seconding the motion, said he had known Mr. Campkin for many years as a keen and able man of business. He had the opportunity of seeing him thirteen years ago conduct an important business-meeting of the Manchester Unity, and was much impressed with the tact and firmness with which he filled the position. He (Mr. Campkin) also takes a lively interest in the Cambridge Pharmaceutical Association, and has those qualities which make him a suitable colleague on the Council.

The motion was carried unanimously, and it was also agreed that Mr. Campkin should take the late Mr. Taylor's place on the Benevolent Fund Committee.

ELECTIONS AND RESTORATIONS.

Eighty persons were elected members, and ten student-associates. Fifteen persons were restored to their former position in the Society. One name was also added to the register, the applicant having made the required declaration that he was in business at the time of the passing of the Pharmacy Act.

FINANCE.

The report of the Finance Committee was next presented by the Chairman (Mr. R. A. ROBINSON). The report showed a balance on the General Fund account of 2,240*l.* 8*s.* 4*d.*, and submitted for payment accounts totalling 3,705*l.* 14*s.* 8*d.*, made up as follows:

	£	s.	d.
Calendar and Register	319	1	7
On behalf of the "Journal"	426	13	7
School	21	2	10
House	37	19	2
Law charges	17	13	6
Stationery, &c.	68	7	11
Salaries, &c.	849	11	8
Current expenses... ..	500	0	0
Museum and library	52	15	8
Compendium	9	12	0
"P. J. Formulary"	1,403	16	9

The Benevolent Fund showed a balance of 1,015*l.* 6*s.* 11*d.*, the Donation Fund standing at 240*l.* 13*s.* 6*d.*, and the Orphan Fund at 90*l.* 0*s.* 11*d.*

This report was passed, as also was a supplementary report referring to an offer of additional ground rents on land adjoining the Society's property at Shortlands. The offer was not accepted.

BENEVOLENCE.

The report of the Benevolent Fund Committee was taken in committee, after which

The VICE-PRESIDENT moved that grants—one of 20*l.*, two of 13*l.*, one of 10*l.*, and one of 5*l.*—be made. The cases were, the Vice-President added, of quite ordinary nature.

The report was adopted.

The SECRETARY announced that he had received the following special subscriptions to the Benevolent Fund:

	£	s.	d.
"In memory of my Husband"	10	10	0
Price's Candle Company	5	5	0
Newcastle smoking-concert	3	12	3
Wolverhampton Association	2	2	0
Dewsbury collection	1	5	0
Northampton Association... ..	1	1	0
Great Yarmouth Association	1	1	0
North of England School of Pharmacy	0	13	0

The PRESIDENT, in acknowledging the gifts, said the money was very acceptable. The contribution sent from Northampton was in addition to 4*l.* 17*s.* collected by the Divisional Secretary. It is a happy illustration of what can be done by a Divisional Secretary interested in the Society and the Fund. One day circulate to the end of time, but

one word from a living voice, or a friend who calls, does more than any amount of printed matter.

Mr. COOPER eulogised the method of calling for subscriptions. He also thought the Fund would be considerably augmented by a Benevolent Fund banquet—one in ten years was not often enough for that function.

Mr. YOUNG said the fact that there was no dinner is no reason for not contributing to the Fund.

The PRESIDENT said Mr. Cooper would have an opportunity of expressing his views on the advisability of a Benevolent Fund dinner next week. The condition of the Fund is such that a banquet might well be held.

Mr. GLYN-JONES: Is it not a fact that the dinner fund would have to be invested? What seems to be wanted just now is subscriptions.

The PRESIDENT: That is the case.

LIBRARY, &C., COMMITTEE.

The report of the Library, Museum, School, and House Committee was next presented. A special letter of thanks was ordered to be sent to Messrs. Baker and Smith for the donation of specimens illustrating the eucalypts. Mr. Chandler was appointed Professor Green's demonstrator, in place of Dr. Drabble, who has left.

The committee had under consideration the desirability of ensuring that a Bell scholar should have, during his tenure of the scholarship, the training contemplated when the scholarships were founded. The Secretary was instructed to present to the committee at its next meeting a draft paragraph for insertion in the regulations to the effect that if a Bell scholar should pass the qualifying examination before the termination of his scholarship he shall forthwith forfeit his position. The Vice-President and the school visitor reported upon the possibility of improving the facilities in the School of Pharmacy for teaching practical pharmacutics. The Dean submitted rough plans for the conversion of a room in Galen Place for the purpose contemplated. The committee approved of the establishment of a pharmaceutical laboratory, and requested Mr. Hills and the school visitor (Mr. Carteighe) to confer with the school staff with a view to obtaining plans and estimates for the consideration of the committee in March. Electric fans are to be provided in the examination-room at the Society's Edinburgh premises, the cost not to exceed 100%.

The VICE-PRESIDENT, in moving the adoption of the report, referred to the donation of eucalypts as "the finest collection that had ever come to this country."

Mr. CROSS, in seconding, asked if the principle referred to in the paragraph about the Bell scholarship had been accepted by the committee. The proposed alteration was good on the whole, as the scholarships were founded for educational purposes.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said the conditions were very different when the scholarships were founded. There is now a ten-months course for the Minor, and, if a Bell scholar passes the Minor early in his career, he does not avail himself of the whole of the instruction which it is the aim of the scholarship to provide. The elementary training is necessary, so that the Major instruction can be properly received. It has been found that in these cases, and in the case of other students who only take the Major course, there is such a weak foundation of preliminary knowledge that failure results. The Professors are convinced about this particular principle—that if a man be awarded a scholarship he should at least fulfil the condition of working ten months, and only go in for his examination when he is expected to. It has been the practice of the Council always to grant the Bell scholars the privilege of taking the five-months Major course, which is a grand addition to the scholarship; so that it will be seen how necessary it is to agree to the principle to which he had referred.

The PRESIDENT thanked the Vice-President for his statement, but reminded him that the matter is still in the hands of a committee.

Mr. ROBINSON said that was not really the point, as it was the principle the Council had to approve that day. He thought the alteration most desirable.

Dr. SYMES, referring to the establishment of a pharmaceutical laboratory, said he was particularly pleased to find Mr. Hills was to be associated with Mr. Carteighe. That

arrangement ensured that there would be no lack of good judgment and no parsimony in carrying out the plan.

The TREASURER was requested to pay the Bell scholars the moiety of 15% each of their scholarships.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

It was referred to the Library, &C., Committee to prepare the annual report, and the annual meeting was fixed for Wednesday, May 18, at noon.

It was also arranged that the next Council-meeting be held on April 13 instead of April 6, owing to Easter.

Mr. ROBINSON doubted if that were a more convenient date.

Mr. R. S. Page was appointed Divisional Secretary for Islington, S., and the PRESIDENT referred to the good services of Mr. Wallace, the former Secretary.

The School of Pharmacy Students' Association submitted their revised rules for the approval of the Council. These were referred to the Library, &C., Committee.

THE PHARMACY BILL.

Mr. R. Feaver Clarke sent a resolution from the North Kent Chemists' Association supporting the principle of the Pharmacy Bill now before Parliament.

Mr. CARTEIGHE, as Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, reported that the Pharmacy Bill was introduced into the House of Commons by Mr. Lough on February 29, several more backers having been obtained by Mr. Lough. The committee also discussed what steps should be taken to advance the passing of the measure. There are signs, added Mr. Carteighe, of an interest in the chemist and druggist and pharmacy in the House of Commons, and the important suggestion has been made that the medical members of Parliament should be approached in a polite and fiduciary manner, and so informed that they can answer in a proper way questions put to them on the matter of the Pharmacy Bill. Medical men and dentists are in the same danger from limited companies as pharmacists, and the committee would point this out. It is desirable at the same time that pharmacists keep on good terms with the medical profession.

THE LATEST CONCESSION.

Mr. GLYN-JONES said he would like to be informed whether any action was to be taken in regard to the important announcement of the Inland Revenue that for the purposes of revenue certain unregistered persons were to be recognised as chemists.

Mr. CARTEIGHE: It has been arranged that the President and I shall go to Somerset House and see the officials on this question. It is quite clear that it is one of those cases in which something must be done by the Society, although, perhaps, from the Inland Revenue officials' point of view it is not one of the cases in which chemists are concerned. We had a distinct undertaking that they would not move in these matters without consulting us.

AN ORGANISING SECRETARY.

Mr. GIFFORD then moved the following resolution:

That an Organising Secretary be appointed whose duties shall be such as directing and assisting divisional secretaries and generally to make effective the Council's system of local organisation.

Mr. Gifford said this is a subject of organisation in completion of the administrative system of Mr. Newholme. The motion supposed that even that admirable scheme is not perfect: a coping-stone is wanting to complete the system. There are numberless precedents to show as to the value of organisation. The British Medical Association have always recognised its value, and during the past three years have entirely reconstructed the Association, which is now of a very effective character. Mr. Gifford further explained that his idea is to make the General Purposes Committee into an Organising Committee, who would have at their disposal an officer to keep them in touch with the necessary questions. The General Purposes Committee at present represent every district in the country, and have now less work than formerly; they also meet at a very convenient time of the month. The Organising Secretary will be required to take up such work as the Secretary did a year or so ago when he went about

the country visiting the different associations. He did not object to calling him a peripatetic secretary, but it was not his (the speaker's) idea that his duties should interfere in the slightest with those of the Secretary. He looked upon Mr. Bremridge as the Town Clerk of the Society, and anything that increases the responsibilities increases the dignity of his office. At a dinner at Blackpool recently some of the speakers who are Local Secretaries had been making a tour of the chemists in their districts, and mentioned that, with the exception of two or three, they were able to get in touch with most of the chemists. It was in these exceptional cases that the Organising Secretary would be useful. To his (the speaker's) mind the advisability of having such an official is obvious, and the simplicity of the scheme is its strength. As an illustration he mentioned the work that Mr. Carteighe does in meeting members of Parliament, as he believed his influence is made greater by the fact that he has done a great deal of organisation. Mr. Gifford then referred to the Poisons Committee's report, and said he considered the minority report of Mr. Hills to be a valuable asset of the Council. It is a fine example of the effect produced by simple language and moderation in statement in a just cause. The effect of this minority report was to asphyxiate the report of the other Commissioners—(laughter)—and to cremate the other minority report. (Laughter.) He felt, however, that the Council are not making as much use of Mr. Hills's minority report as they might do. It is their duty to make more of it. There are only 6,300 members of the Society, although there are some fifteen thousand persons on the register. All the names on the register are not those of chemists. The chaplain of a local workhouse is on the register, and he knew of a corset-maker and a tobacconist whose names are given there. He knew the names of at least six people on the register who are no more chemists than crossing-sweepers. He regarded the proportion of six to thirteen as more accurate; even this is not a satisfactory proportion, but organisation would soon vastly improve matters. To his mind, the effect of organisation is much greater than Acts of Parliament, however admirable they may be.

Mr. CROSS, seconding the motion, said he agreed with a great deal that Mr. Gifford suggested, but he did not think the present was the time to discuss it; the matter should be considered by a committee.

Mr. ROBINSON: That is not seconding the motion. (Laughter.)

Mr. GIFFORD said he agreed to add to his motion "and that the matter be referred to a committee."

The TREASURER: What is the effect of that?

Mr. CROSS: The matter does not seem a proper one to discuss at the present time. He understood, moreover, that Mr. Gifford had a plan to produce, and they could not talk about the details in public.

Mr. GLYN-JONES pointed out that if they passed the motion it would be agreeing to the appointment of an Organising Secretary. He thought it ought to be worded: "that the General Purposes Committee be asked to consider the advisability of appointing an Organising Secretary."

Mr. NEWSHOLME moved an amendment to this effect. In agreeing with the principle of the motion he said he had in mind the good done by the visits of Mr. Bremridge and Mr. Chater to the provinces in previous years, and he realised fully the advantages of the change suggested by Mr. Gifford; in fact, he was strongly in favour of the amendment. Mr. Newsholme then read his amendment, and it was seconded by Mr. CORDER.

The TREASURER suggested that the word, "directing" be deleted. He did not think that the Organising Secretary should direct the Local Secretaries; it ought rather to be the other way on. It was eventually agreed to delete the words coming after appointed, and the motion as follows was put and carried:

That the General Purposes Committee be asked to consider the advisability of appointing an Organising Secretary.

PHARMACISTS AND THE PHARMACOPEIA.

Dr. SYMES then brought forward the following motion:

That this Council approach the promoters of the Medical Acts Amendment Bill now before Parliament, or take such other steps as may be deemed desirable, for the purpose of obtaining for pharmacists a legal standing on future Pharmacopœia Committees.

Dr. SYMES said this is not a new subject, but is one that has been openly discussed on many occasions. He would not say debated, because he did not think there were two opinions among chemists on this matter. It is useless, he said, to attempt to persuade those who have already made up their minds that a representation of pharmacists on the Pharmacopœia Committee is desirable. Little has been heard of the agitation of late years. He remembered the discussion that took place at the time of the publication of the 1885 Pharmacopœia. Mr. John Williams at Hastings spoke on the subject at considerable length. The committee for revising the Pharmacopœia, Mr. Williams pointed out, has always been a hybrid one, that is, composed of both medical men and pharmacists, in every civilised country; indeed, it has always been considered essential that the two should confer together, except in this country. He remembered that Mr. Williams referred to the fact that the medical men with whom he had discussed the matter unanimously agreed that pharmacists ought to have a hand in preparing the Pharmacopœia. The Pharmaceutical Society at that time issued a petition to Local Secretaries, which medical men were asked to sign, to the effect that they approved of the appointment of pharmacists on the Pharmacopœia Committee. He (Dr. Symes) found that every medical man spoken to agreed to sign the petition; but when the matter came before the General Medical Council it was pointed out that the Medical Act only allows medical men to do that work, and that therefore the Council were powerless. Dr. Symes added that, whilst appreciating the courtesy the General Medical Council had always shown to pharmacists, he felt that the present opportunity should be taken advantage of to insert a clause in the Medical Amendment Bill which is before the House of Commons, giving pharmacists a legal status in preparing the Pharmacopœia. It is useless to meet every month and have academic discussions on such matters. If it was desirable twenty years ago that pharmacists should be represented on the Pharmacopœia Committee, it is surely so now that the Pharmacopœia has assumed a commercial basis. The book is now more of a commercial character, and there are points turning up which were never heard of years ago. He considered it a simple act of justice, not only to the pharmacists of this country, but to the pharmacists of the British Empire, that they should have a voice in preparing the Pharmacopœia.

The TREASURER asked, What is the Medical Bill referred to, and who are the promoters?

Dr. SYMES replied that possibly the Secretary could inform them.

Mr. WOOTTON mentioned that the Bill is one promoted by the British Medical Association.

Dr. SYMES said he did not know exactly, but some time ago at a meeting of the British Medical Association it was stated that the Pharmacopœia Committee did not include pharmacists, and that it was desirable that that body should be represented.

The TREASURER said it was important, as a matter of business, to know something about the Bill to which the clause was proposed to be added.

Mr. WOOTTON said the main object of the Medical Bill which is promoted by the British Medical Association is to get more representative members on the General Medical Council. It is the same Bill to which one of the branch Associations tried to get a clause added to suppress medical dispensing.

More discussion then took place as to what the Bill is, one of the speakers referring to another Bill. [There is really only one before the House, General Laurie's.—ED.]

The TREASURER said he certainly thought Dr. Symes was a little previous with his motion, as it might turn out that the Bill he has in mind is not a suitable Bill to add such a clause to. Moreover, there seemed to be two Bills, and Dr. Symes did not know which of the Bills he was referring to.

Mr. YOUNG, in seconding Dr. Symes's motion, said for many years it had been apparent to him that the attitude and position of pharmacists, as regards the British Pharmacopœia, are very unsatisfactory. It is anomalous that chemists should not have a say in the compilation of a book which is not handled by more than 20 per cent. of medical men, whilst over 90 per cent. of chemists constantly use it. The present volume teems with errors that would have been avoided if pharmacists had had a voice in the matter. A

statutory enactment is wanted, and the Bill before the House is certainly a suitable opportunity for pressing the claims of chemists.

The TREASURER said there did not seem sufficient information before the Council to enable them to move in the matter; in parliamentary matters it is important that the Parliamentary Committee be consulted. He did not want to delay the matter, but they ought to be most careful in moving in parliamentary matters. The Parliamentary Committee could be summoned at once, and prompt action taken if necessary. He moved as an amendment—

That this Council, whilst approving of the principle that pharmacists should have a statutory standing on future Pharmacopœia Committees, requests the Parliamentary Committee to consider the present position, and report in due course.

Mr. CARTEIGHE said he was afraid he would damp the ardour of the supporters and seconder of the motion. The Medical Bill before the House of Commons is one to enable colonial medical men to accept appointments in this country. He wanted to know what he, as Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee, was to fight for. Was he to fight against the Medical Bill on the one hand (if the suggested clause was not accepted) and for the Pharmacy Bill on the other hand? It is difficult to realise the relative importance of the question. On a previous occasion he had been in the lobby of the House of Lords fighting against a Medical Amendment Act, and saw the officials of the Department of the Privy Council that controls both the Medical and Pharmaceutical Councils. In this matter the Privy Council took the opposite view to the Pharmaceutical Society. If they should do so in this case it would put them in a difficulty. He had thought that pharmacists might live long enough to earn the compliment that they were competent to take part in the compilation of the Pharmacopœia. He did not know whether the Society were strong enough to deal with the two things at the same time.

Mr. GLYN-JONES, in seconding the Treasurer's amendment, said he could not blame Dr. Symes for using some Bill he had heard about as a peg upon which to hang his desire for pharmaceutical representation on the Pharmacopœia Committee. He did not remember that the Council have officially and publicly stated that they consider the Society should have a direct legal status in the production of the Pharmacopœia. At any rate, they have not done so since he had been a member of the Council. It is useful to let it be known that as a Council they claim legal status for pharmacists in the production of the Pharmacopœia. Still, he was anxious to do nothing to interfere with the useful work in the preparation of the Pharmacopœia in which the Society were already taking part, although not from a legal right. He thought the Council should advocate the claims of pharmacy in season and out of season, and urge that they have a legal right given them in preparing the Pharmacopœia. He hoped the General Medical Council would see that pharmacists are only claiming what is just, especially now that the Pharmacopœia is being used as a legal standard for goods which are sold, not only in prescription form, but over the counter.

Mr. WOOTTON suggested that the matter be referred to the General Purposes Committee in place of the Parliamentary Committee, as Dr. Symes is not a member of the latter body. Whilst strongly supporting the suggestion hinted at by Mr. Carteighe, he hardly thought it was the time to make the matter a contested question. He did not agree with Mr. Glyn-Jones that it is a wise policy to urge the matter in season and out of season. At present chemists want medical support, and it would be unwise to attack the medical position at the present time.

The TREASURER agreed to the wording of his resolution being altered to "General Purposes Committee," in place of "Parliamentary Committee."

Dr. SYMES said the amendment savoured of inaction. It would be better, if the principle were accepted, to approach the promoters of the Bill and make an arrangement with them for an amendment, rather than that the amendment should have to be made in the House of Commons. He meant it as a friendly action, and not as an offensive one. He certainly desired no friction with medical men. The Pharmacy Bill was altered at the request of the General Medical Council, but the Pharmaceutical Society did not look upon that as an offensive action. If the matter is put

off a month, and the Bill gets beyond a certain point, any amendment might certainly come to be looked upon as offensive; that is why he wished action to be taken at once. It is a case of common justice that those who have to obey a law should assist in the making of it.

Mr. GIFFORD: I think I can enlighten the Council. The British Medical Association's Bill is not yet in Parliament.

Dr. SYMES: There is a Medical Bill before the House.

Mr. GIFFORD: The Bill I refer to was printed in the "British Medical Journal" last August, and was only a draft Bill. There would not be any disadvantage in waiting.

The TREASURER asked if Dr. Symes proposed to withdraw his motion and support the amendment. It was certainly not desirable to have purely academic discussions as to the desirability of pharmacists being represented on the Pharmacopœia, as they were already of one mind in that matter. The question is, however, one of practical politics, and Dr. Symes does not know who are the promoters of the Bill, which is a very important point. Reference had been made to a discussion on the previous night by the General Purposes Committee. Nothing he (the speaker) said then might not have been said in open council, or would have influenced the voting of any of the members on Dr. Symes's motion. As a member of the Conference on Pharmacopœia revision, he (Mr. Hills) brought a matter before the committee with a view to getting his position strengthened on certain matters.

The Treasurer's amendment was put and carried, Dr. Symes and Mr. Young voting against it.

The amendment was afterwards put as a substantive motion, and carried.

Recent Wills.

DEACON.—The will has been proved of Mr. Frederick George Deacon, who for fifteen years carried on the business of a chemist and druggist at 50 Victoria Road North, Southsea, and who died there on January 22. The value of the late Mr. Deacon's property is entered at 2,740*l.* 0*s.* 5*d.*, of which 2,467*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.* is net personality.

FELTON.—The will of Mr. Alfred Felton, of Melbourne, whose death is recorded elsewhere in this issue, was made in August, 1900, and by it he leaves an estate of between 450,000*l.* and 500,000*l.* Of this he bequeathed 50,000*l.* to be paid in various legacies, and 150,000*l.* to provide life incomes for various legatees, and as they die the capital represented in their incomes will revert to the bequest until the whole 150,000*l.* is thus returned, when it is to be added to the residue of the estate, so that ultimately a sum of about 450,000*l.* will be available for distribution by the trustees between the Melbourne Art Gallery and the charitable institutions of Victoria. The trustees form a committee of five, consisting of Mr. F. S. Grimwade, M.L.C. (the late Mr. Felton's partner), with succession to his two sons, Dr. Charles Baze, one of the trustees of the Melbourne Public Gallery, and one of the directors of the Trustees, Executors, and Agency Company, of Melbourne, who is acting as the sole executor. Professor Morris was also named in the will as a member of the committee, but he is dead. The income from the estate is alone to be distributed as directed in the will, the committee being given discretion to decide what institutions will benefit. "Without in any way fettering the absolute discretion of the committee, I hereby indicate to them my hope," said Mr. Felton in the will, "that in the application of such income they will favourably consider, firstly, charities for children—for example, children's hospitals and orphanages; secondly, charities for women, such as women's hospitals; thirdly, such institutions or societies as general hospitals, societies for the relief of the educated poor, and other charitable institutions of a general character." The trustees of the Melbourne Art Gallery are given the right to make a selection from Mr. Felton's art collection.

GRIMSHAW.—The will of the late Mr. Harry Grimshaw, of the firm of Messrs. Grimshaw Brothers (Limited), manufacturing chemists, of Chatham Street, Clayton, Manchester, has been proved at 6,318*l.* gross, the net personality being 5,021*l.*

"Pharmaceutical Formulas."

VOLUME II. is now ready. It is a book which every chemist should get. It appeals directly to them, and is the best possible provision against the incidence of the stamped-medicine regulation which comes into force on March 31. The price of the book is 10s. net, by post 10s. 6d.; and it may also be obtained at the published price from any of the following:

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THE BOOK IS UNIQUE

in respect to the fact that the formulas in it are systematically arranged so that chemists may readily judge of the variations of kindred preparations, and repetition is thus avoided. In collation, the provisions of the Medicine-stamp Acts have been kept constantly in view, and consequently anyone may see at a glance which preparations are liable to medicine stamp-duty and which are not.

The publication of the volume ensures to all who communicated their formulas to us that the medicines may on and after March 31 be sold as theretofore without stamp duty, provided the labels are marked

PREPARED ACCORDING

TO "PHARMACEUTICAL FORMULAS," No. —.

Those who have not sent in their formulas are sure to find in the book one or more to suit each of their labels.

Besides providing for legality of sales, "Pharmaceutical Formulas," Vol. II. is a valuable contribution to pharmaceutical literature, in so far as it gives an up-to-date codification of the Medicine-stamp Acts on the lines laid down by the late Mr. E. N. Alpe, of the Solicitor's Department, Somerset House, incorporating the most recent additions to and amendments of the law relating to the sale of dutiable medicines, together with copious annotations, legal decisions, and official interpretations. Following are further opinions in regard to the volume:

From Mr. Fred. W. Fletcher, F.C.S., pharmaceutical chemist, Principal of Messrs. Fletcher, Fletcher & Co. (Limited).

Holloway, London, N.

March 1, 1904.

DEAR SIR,—Carlyle says somewhere that "no chaos can continue chaotic with a soul in it." Until last week I did not conceive it possible that anything approaching order could have been evolved out of the chaos of medicine-stamp law. But a few days ago I received a copy of "Pharmaceutical Formulas," and there I discovered the soul which gave the shapeless mass coherent, tangible form. Now I understand your choice of title. For mental recreation I can imagine nothing more diverting than a study of the nuts which the Board of Inland Revenue has from

time to time set itself to crack, not infrequently pinching its fingers in the process. With your talisman in his hand the bewildered pharmacist will have more than a chance of solving the riddle of the S.H. Sphinx, "When is an ailment not an ailment?" But, as Somerset House is always ready with a new variety entertainment, there is a delightful uncertainty about the terms of the conundrum which gives a perennial zest to the competition.

The collection of formulæ which you have gathered together with such admirable classification seems to leave no room for any further originality or inspiration. The only drawback is that, after putting them to practical use, I should judge that in about twelve months' time the philanthropic pharmacist will find there are no ailments left to cure; and thus he will be hoist with his own petard. But perhaps before that unfortunate period arrives medical specialism will have discovered an entirely new set of diseases, which will render a further supplementary volume necessary.

Not the least commendable feature of your book is its convenient size. It is so portable that the peripatetic pharmacist can put it into his pocket and be conscious only of a little extra weight of wisdom.

Yours very truly,

FRED. W. FLETCHER.

From Mr. John C. Umney, F.C.S., Hon. Treasurer of the British Pharmaceutical Conference, &c.

48 and 50 Southwark Street, London, S.E.

February 29.

DEAR SIR,—I think I am not exaggerating in saying that vol. 2 of "Pharmaceutical Formulas" is a remarkable production, and should find a place on the desk of every chemist. I must congratulate you on the very clear and concise statement of the various changes that have been made in the Medicine-stamp Acts, and certainly no one should have any doubt as to the present position, or, indeed, as to the liability or non-liability to stamp-duty of any label after reading these pages. It does appear to me that the position is now much more clearly defined than it has ever been; and whether the exemption is maintained or not, still a useful purpose will, I am sure, have been served in the collecting together of so many formulæ for counter-specialities. The tables contained on pages 613 and on, giving cross-references to *The Chemists' and Druggists' Diary*, will be most convenient, and the index, so far as I have been able to judge, is very convenient and accurate.

Faithfully yours,

JOHN C. UMNEY.

CORRECTION.

Index, page 627, the title "Absorbent dyspepsia-tablets" should not be in italics, as it is *per se* a dutiable title on and after March 31.

Trade-marks Applied For.

Objections to the registration of any of the undermentioned applications should be lodged with O. N. DALTON, Esq., C.B., Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs, and Trade-marks, at the Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Chancery Lane, London, W.C., within one month of the dates mentioned. The objection must be stated on Trade-marks Form J, cost £1, obtainable through any money-order office.

(From the "Trade Marks Journal," February 3, 1904.)

Circular device enclosing smoking chimney-stack; for chemicals in Classes 1 and 2, soaps, &c., in Class 47, dyes, perfumes, cosmetics, and polishes and cleansers. By the Hansa Chemical-works, 19-21 Finsbury Pavement, E.C. 255,233-4; 255,236-8.

"SALAMBA," and helmet and shield device; for a medicine. By J. Horsch, Mexico, c/o Hyde & Heide, 1 Broad Street Buildings, E.C. 258,192.

"UPAI"; for goods in Class 3. By C. E. Norgate, High Street, Newport, Shropshire. 257,674.

"MIOL"; for an iodo-phosphated malt and oil. By Albert Hendy, 98 Thorpdale Road, Finsbury Park, N. 258,808.

"VITALOIDS" ("Vital" disclaimed); for pills, tablets, and capsules. By the Laboratory Company, Red Hall, Guildford Street, Leeds. 259,319.

"QUINKA" ("Quin" disclaimed) for medicine. By S. J. Abbott, 153 Queen Street, Portsmouth. 259,488.

"LESSOIDS"; for an obesity-cure. By the Trileue Company, 66 Finsbury Pavement, E.C. 259,554.

"NITRONIL"; for medicines. By F. H. Johnson & Co. (Limited), 231 High Street, Lewisham. 259,583.

"CALODAL"; for pharmaceutical preparations. By the Chemische Fabrik von Heyden, Radebeul c/o Newburn, Ellis & Pryor, 70 Chancery Lane, W.C. 259,772.

Observations and Reflections.

By XRAYSER.

The Latest Concession

of the Board of Inland Revenue is retrogressive with a vengeance. The recognition of any "person" as a chemist or druggist entitled to the benefit of Exemption 3 in the Medicine-stamp Act of 1812, provided that he "hath served a regular apprenticeship," is a cruel disregard of all our painstaking organisation of examination, qualification, and registration, which we cannot or ought not to see ignored without at least a struggle. Obviously the committee of the Pharmaceutical Council, which was so graciously received at Somerset House two months ago, should hurry up to the breach and defend it. Here is its opportunity to demonstrate the efficacy of its influence.

It must not be Forgotten,

however, that there is a case on the other side. Chemists (represented by Mr. Glyn-Jones) appealed to the Act of 1812, and the Courts gave them exactly what the Act of 1812 promised—no more and no less. Whether this is more or less than they think their present position entitles them to is not relevant. But it is pertinent to inquire whether subsequent legislation has in any way affected the position of the persons indicated in Exemption 3. When this concession was announced I had the opportunity of discussing it with the Editor of this journal. Our views on it were somewhat divergent. He thought the Board were not justified in reading the exemption as if it said "any person who hath served a regular apprenticeship to a chemist." It actually says "any chemist," and since 1863, he argued, the term "chemist" has had a restricted application. Clearly the pivot of the controversy is whether that restricted application affects the meaning of words used in a statute passed before 1863. To get

An Authoritative Opinion

on this point I went to the standard work on judicial construction, "Maxwell on the Interpretation of the Statutes." There I got all I wanted, and rather more; for Maxwell is so thorough, and judicial rulings have been so ingeniously varied, that, as Shelley says, nothing is constant but mutability, or words to that effect. I may confess, however, that a careful study of Maxwell has left me more mixed in my views than I was before, though I think that, on balance, his exposition leans rather in favour of the Editor's contention. I will give the substance of his elucidation of the problem as accurately as I can in a short space.

Maxwell's First Proposition

(for the purposes of this argument) is that the statute-book must be regarded as the work of an author who "must be supposed to be consistent with himself." The author is the Legislature all through the centuries.

Therefore, if in one place he has expressed his mind clearly, it ought to be presumed that he is still of the same mind in another place, unless it clearly appears he has changed it.

The Legislature clearly changed its mind about chemists in 1868. If Maxwell had only stopped there the conclusion would have been easy enough. But he goes on:

The language of every enactment must be so construed as far as possible as to be consistent with every other which it does not in express terms modify or repeal. The law, therefore, will not allow the revocation or alteration of a statute

by construction when the words may have their proper operation without it.

Mr. Solicitor-General could not present the Somerset House view more effectively than in those words. But we have no sooner assimilated them than Maxwell chops round again from exact north to due south. He adds—

But it is impossible to will contradictions, and if two passages are irreconcilable the earlier stands implicitly repealed by the later.

The Pharmacy Act chemist is obviously irreconcilable with the party referred to in 1812, so we once more presume that the later definition must prevail. But here again we are

Jumping to a Conclusion.

Maxwell has not nearly done yet. "Repeal by Implication," he tells us, is not favoured. If the Legislature intended to repeal any particular Act or section it could easily have said so, and if it did not say so it is only respectful to assume that repeal was not intended. A contrary conclusion is, therefore,

not to be adopted unless it be inevitable. Any reasonable construction which offers an escape from it is more likely to be in consonance with the real intention.

Apparently contradictory enactments may sometimes be treated as parallel ones, both enforceable, or one may be considered as an exception to the general rule laid down by another. An Act may have a general application, but it does not follow that it repeals every particular previous provision which may not be quite in accord with it. When the Gaming Act was passed it was held that, though this enacted that no action could be maintained in regard to a wager, wagers made before the passing of the Act could still be enforced by law. The analogy of this case to the one before us would only go to the extent of granting the exemption to persons who might have been apprenticed before 1868. Maxwell alludes to scores of judgments, and out of these he deduces certain

Principles of Exposition

and sets up a sort of scientific system. Perhaps it is irreverent to suggest that nothing of the kind exists. Maxwell groups the judgments cleverly, but he makes it quite evident that the statutes are full of inconsistencies and (this is the point for us) that there is no invariable method of dealing with these. Take a couple of judgments at random. One Act exempted a certain kind of beer from licensing-regulations; a later one enacted that "no beer" should be sold without a licence: held that the later Act repealed the earlier one. An Act for completing a bridge over the Thames exempted the owners of adjoining property from all taxes and assessments: held that later Acts imposing rates and taxes on lands and houses generally did not repeal this exemption. Dozens of similar incompatible decisions might be quoted. The Courts do not follow any fixed rule; they are properly influenced by the details in the particular case before them. It is very likely, I think, though not certain, that they would interpret the 1812 Act by the 1868 one. At all events, the Board of Inland Revenue are not legally infallible. The new volume of "Pharmaceutical Formulas" reminds us, by its timely reproduction of High Court judgments in medicine-stamp appeals, that out of four such cases the Board have lost two.

A BRITISH CONSULAR report on the trade of Alexandria during 1902 has just been issued by the Foreign Office. The report is quite perfunctory, and is merely a record of imports and exports. Considering that 95 per cent. of the total foreign trade of Egypt passes through Alexandria, it is to be regretted that more up-to-date and intelligent information cannot be afforded.

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Editorial Comments.

The Astounding Concession.

WE are pleased to notice that the Pharmaceutical Council recognises the danger to statutory titles which the Board of Inland Revenue's latest "concession" implies. The Council has decided to communicate with the Board in regard to the matter, and if the conference between the Board's and the Council's representatives last December was the means of establishing cordial relations between the two bodies, we feel that the Board will recognise the inexpediency of

ignoring the statutes which have so radically altered the conditions of the drug-trade, and, consequently, the incidence of the exemption favourable to it. We are not disposed to deny to any man his just rights under the Medicine-stamp Acts, but we claim that at various times since 1812 the Legislature has seen fit to enact that certain conditions shall be fulfilled by persons who are or call themselves surgeons, apothecaries, chemists, and druggists, other than the condition of "a regular apprenticeship" specified in the 1812 Act. At the present time apprenticeship for surgeons and apothecaries is non-existent, having been replaced by a five years' collegiate curriculum of study, which substantially embodies the experience formerly obtained by apprenticeship. In a manner not greatly dissimilar, chemists and druggists, before registration as such—that is, before they are in the sense of the law of the realm "chemists and druggists" or "chemists" or "druggists"—have to produce evidence of three years' practical experience in the chemist's art, which is the equivalent of "the regular apprenticeship" mentioned in the 1812 Act. We do not agree with Mr. Pond that the fact of a man's name being on the register of chemists and druggists is not proof that he is qualified as registered by the 1812 Act. The only persons who can possibly be considered as not having served an apprenticeship are those, like Mr. Pond, who were registered as having been in business before the 1868 Act was passed; but the thirty-six years' experience they have had of it since is enough to satisfy the spirit of the older law. Such arguments are, however, beside the real issue, which is that surgeons, apothecaries, chemists, and druggists (with a qualification which the law has changed) may sell certain medicines free from stamp-duty. We maintain that the only persons whom the Board have now to consider as falling within these designations are those registered as such. Parliament in its wisdom has narrowed down the Board's view of the privileged classes. It would be just as reasonable for a man occupying a house rated at 40% per annum to claim and get exemption from Inhabited-house Duty because the rental was 19% ten years ago, as for a drug-store keeper to get the privileges of Exemption 3 because people like him could legally call themselves "chemists" or "druggists" in 1812. Taxes, however old they be, are not perpetual. They terminate on a specified date every year, and are reimposed by an Act of Parliament which, though formal, must in principle be applicable to the conditions existing at the time of enactment. That being so, the Medicine-stamp Acts exemptions could only apply in 1869 and every year since (so far as chemists are concerned) to those who were registered under the Pharmacy Act, 1863, as only such chemists had legal existence. Apart altogether from these technical considerations, we think the Board of Inland Revenue have assumed a grave responsibility, and jeopardised the authority of another State Department (the Pharmaceutical Society), by recognising as "chemists" persons who are not so *de facto*. This is not a matter of giving a concession to a comparatively small body of men who struggle to live, but there is involved the integrity of a far-reaching principle which ought not to have been violated without reference to those who have been specially charged to guard it.

The Pharmacy Bill.

21. PHARMACY BILL.—"To provide for the further regulation of the sale of poisons and the compounding of medical prescriptions, and to amend the Pharmacy Acts, 1832 and 1868," presented by Mr. Lough; to be read a second time upon Monday, March 21, and to be printed. [Bill 101.]

SUCH is the entry in the votes and proceedings of the House of Commons, Monday, February 29, 1904. According to the

opponents of the measure, its backers of last session were to drop it like a hot potato, but the facts are all the other way. We mentioned a few weeks ago that Mr. John Burns was the only one of the backers who was not to support Mr. Lough this session, but since then Mr. Burns has signified his intention of backing the Bill, while other members of Parliament, including Sir John Leng, Mr. Edmund Robertson, K.C., and Mr. Parker Smith, besides others who were either lukewarm or opponents last year, have intimated that they will support the measure. The Executive Committee of the Federation of Pharmaceutical Associations, through its timely circular to members of Parliament, has been the means of securing sixteen new supporters of the measure. "Educate, educate, educate," is the chemist's maxim in this matter, and what was done last year is bearing fruit. Legislators are beginning to see the necessity, not only for legislating on the company question, but of righting the wrong which has been done to chemists as a body of men who have conformed to statutory requirements not binding upon companies carrying on exactly the same business. The kernel of the measure is the seventh clause, which we print here in contrast with the similar provision just enacted in the Orange River Colony:

The Seventh Clause.

O.R.C

It shall be unlawful for any company incorporated under the Acts in force regulating joint-stock companies to retail, dispense, or compound poisons or medical prescriptions unless the business of such company shall be managed by one or more director or directors, who or all of whom shall be registered persons not directors of any other company carrying on the like business, and who shall exercise all such powers of the company as are not by the Companies Acts required to be exercised by the company in general meeting.

On and after the day of the taking effect of this Ordinance it shall not be lawful for any firm, co-partnership, corporation, joint stock company, or other plurality of persons to retail, dispense, or compound poisons or medical prescriptions, unless the business of such firm, co-partnership, or company shall be managed by one or more partner or partners, director or directors, who or all of whom shall be registered within the meaning of this Ordinance; and no firm, co-partnership, or company as aforesaid shall permit any poison to be retailed, or any medical prescription to be retailed, dispensed, or compounded otherwise than by or under the supervision of a registered person; and any firm, corporation, or other company offending against the provisions of this section shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding 10% for every day during which the offence is continued: Provided that a sleeping or anonymous partner and a director whose management merely extends to attending and taking part in the proceedings of ordinary or special meetings of the board shall not for the purposes of this section be deemed to manage the business of such firm, co-partnership, corporation, joint-stock company, or other plurality of persons as the case may be.

Nothing remains now but for every registered chemist in Great Britain to emulate the determination and unity which enabled their *confrères* in South Africa to convince their legislators that this provision is necessary for the public good. This can be done by courteous, but firm, correspondence with M.P.s.

The Advance in Iodine.

AFTER maintaining a fixed price for exactly three years, crude iodine was on February 25, as recorded in our last issue, advanced by the convention from 6% to 7½% per oz.,

and the combined manufacturers of iodides followed suit by advancing all their preparations to a corresponding extent. As usual, the move came upon the drug-trade with startling suddenness, and none were more surprised than the iodide-manufacturers. Indeed, in many quarters it had been anticipated for some months past that prices would rather decline than advance. Since the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese war, however, iodide-makers have held the view that prices would stiffen in consequence; but, as already indicated, they were not prepared for a 25-per-cent-advance. As a rule, large buyers and makers of iodine preparations had been purchasing from hand to mouth only, so that they had worked their stocks down to a low point, and they have now to pay the full price of 7½*d.* Some dealers, however, have been working under better advantages as regards potassium iodide, because many of them have received direct shipments from Japan, bought through agents and brokers on this market. These parcels, it need hardly be said, have been bought at much below the Convention rates. For instance, we know that during January and February alone Japan shipped to London over 1,000*l.* worth of iodine and over 1,400*l.* worth of potassium iodide, the latter being consigned to several prominent firms. What little Japanese potassium iodide is now obtainable in second-hands is practically on a level with the Convention price, and it is even said the syndicate have bought up all the Japanese iodine that was offered, but this we cannot confirm. In determining the present advance the iodine syndicate have been actuated greatly by the Russo-Japanese war, which has led to the practical withdrawal of supplies and offers from Japan. That the Japanese products, especially potassium iodide, have proved a thorn in the flesh of the syndicate cannot be denied—so much so that for over twelve months the makers of British iodides have had a very profitless time. The conditions are now much more favourable for business, and we understand that the iodide-makers have sold fair quantities this week at the full convention prices. A second and important factor is that the iodine syndicate has induced the Scotch manufacturer, who was an "outsider," to come into the fold. The competition from that quarter was, perhaps, not serious, as iodine produced from kelp probably costing about 6*d.* per oz. cannot compete with that produced from nitrate at a cost of about 2*d.* per oz. Moreover, the quantities offered were small as compared with what came forward from Japan. No doubt the present is considered a favourable opportunity for the syndicate to crush Japanese iodine out of the European markets, as the war will probably put a serious check on the further development of the industry for some time to come. While the war lasts the chances are in favour of a continuance of the present iodine-price. On Wednesday a report was circulated to the effect that the Japanese iodide-makers had joined the convention, but nobody here is inclined to believe such a statement, and we merely give it as a rumour. It is thought by some that so large an advance as 1½*d.* is not warranted, and that the higher range of prices largely depends on the duration of the war. The war has stimulated the demand for iodoform and potassium iodide. It may be noted that the business now being done in a wholesale way is mostly for current requirements, and consists chiefly of the minimum quantity of 1 cwt. potassium iodide, 28 lbs. of iodoform, and an occasional keg of iodine.

The Lesson of Portsmouth.

THAT part of Mr. T. H. W. Idris's presidential address at the British Pharmaceutical Conference at Bristol which particularly stirred the lay Press to curiosity dealt with

dispensing by doctors. We have recently seen that the medical men as a body are not prepared to co-operate with pharmacists in bringing about reform, and, although compulsion in the matter is not within sight, there has been abundant evidence during the past three weeks that public opinion, directed by the rigour of events, may compel the reform which Mr. Idris advocated on purely public grounds. Mr. Idris insisted that the man who prescribes a medicine and dispenses it should not also write the death-certificate. It is against public policy that such an association of functions should exist, and, since dispensing is the part of the medical man's duties to which he is least suited by education, it is the function which he should shed. We now get a lesson from Portsmouth in the revelations at the inquest on the victims who were poisoned at the asylum there with chloral hydrate. The evidence of the medical officers and others associated in that unhappy affair discloses an alarming state of things in a large public institution. The dispensing was entirely done by the medical officers, with the occasional assistance of the head attendant. The manner in which the dispensing was done by at least one of the medical officers and by the attendant will scarcely commend itself to even the most rabid dispensing-doctor. The attendant confessed (see *C. & D.*, February 13, page 261) that "he did not measure the pure chloral [solution] when he mixed it with water, but went by guesswork." Dr. Henderson told the Coroner (see *C. & D.*, February 20, page 298) that "he made up one draught from this bottle, taking 1 oz. of the fluid. He did not use a measure-glass, and believed he filled half of one of the 2-oz. bottles produced. . . . After he had half-filled the bottle with the fluid he went to the tap and filled the bottle with water." In an establishment where this haphazard style of dispensing is carried on it is not surprising that tragedy should occur. There are reasons for believing that the state of things revealed at Portsmouth is not uncommon in public institutions elsewhere. The way in which the truth in the Portsmouth affair has been withheld (as the Coroner expressed it) is made easy by reason of the irresponsibility of the collection of "dispensers." No particular one of them was officially responsible for the preparation of the fatal stock-solution, and the filling of the stock-bottle will probably remain a mystery. Had there been a properly qualified pharmacist in charge of the dispensary, as there ought to be in every public institution, the probabilities are that the mistake would never have happened, or if it had occurred the person responsible would have been known at once. That fact was perfectly clear to the Coroner and his jury, and their recommendation that a properly qualified dispenser be employed in future is only a mild reflection of the indignation prevalent in the vicinity of the tragedy. There can be little doubt but that the authorities at Portsmouth will hasten to bolt the stable-door in the time-honoured manner; but it would be well if other public authorities who permit similar dispensing-methods should hasten to protect themselves and their charges by putting their houses in order without delay.

Sale of Poisons.

There is a note on this subject in this week's "Lancet" which, whilst it does not add anything to the general knowledge on legislation affecting the sale of poisons, at least recognises the difficulties in framing further restrictions. All suggested precautions are set aside by the practice of purchasing small quantities of poison at different establishments. The least that can be said is that the present restrictions on the sale of poisons are carefully constructed, and generally afford adequate protection for the public; and

yet there are interested parties who are doing their best to loosen these salutary protecting regulations.

Australian Customs Regulations.

In a letter to the "Times" Messrs. A. & F. Pears (Limited) state that they have received a communication from Australia stating that the Commonwealth Customs officers are giving endless trouble regarding the printed matter wrapped around tins or included in any small packets of merchandise. They are now opening and inspecting every shipment received and charging a duty of 3*l.* per lb. on all such wrapping. To prevent the goods being opened and their wrappers damaged it will be necessary in future to give on the invoices of each shipment the approximate weight of any such printing for these markets. It is not expected that this absurd regulation will last long, as it is causing a very considerable amount of annoyance to all importers of both English and foreign goods shipped in packet form, for nearly all such lines contain one or two circulars wrapped around each article, so that half the merchants in these Colonies are being fined for omitting to include these items in their Custom-house entries. Messrs. Pears add that they have had a similar experience in Russia, but never before in any British colony or English-speaking country.

Medical Dispensing.

This matter is still a burning topic in the correspondence columns of the "Lancet." Dr. Knaggs, of Huddersfield, writes that medical men who dispense save their poor patients money, as they (the medical men), not having to make a living out of drugs, can supply cheaper medicine. Another correspondent thinks that patients not having been supplied with medicine will expect a liberal discount on the doctor's bill, as they (the patients) have received nothing tangible for their money. Dr. J. C. McWalter suggests that medical men should make an arrangement with a chemist for the supply of the medicine for club-patients. If, for instance, a club is worth 20*l.* a year, a druggist would agree to supply all the medicine required for 5*l.* Another practitioner pleads that the "law" shall not be made retrospective, but only apply to those joining the profession after a certain date. Another suggests that the "Bill" would mean ruin to half the general practitioners of to-day, and benefit no one but the druggist. It happens, however, that there is no "Bill" or "law," and that the subject is not even a "live" one now.

Is the Ether an Element?

Those who like now and then a bit of philosophic reading, not too hard for after-dinner comfort, should get Mendeléeff's essay, "An Attempt towards a Chemical Conception of the Ether," which has been rendered into charming English by Mr. George Kamensky, and published by Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co. It embodies the thoughts of a man who feels that his message to his fellows cannot be long delayed, and it is a generalisation of recently acquired knowledge of new elements, especially of radium and the inert gases, which does not involve the uprooting of the accepted atomic theory. The discovery of helium, neon, argon, krypton, and xenon, and their lack of chemical affinity, has incited Mendeléeff to preface his periodic table with a new group, called the Zero group, comprising these gases—He in Series 1, Ne Series 3, Ar Series 4, Kr Series 6, and Xe Series 8. Before these are Series 0 and 1, which should be filled by two elements, *x* and *y*. The element *y* he conceives to be a gas lighter than hydrogen, but an analogue of helium, and this he finds in the solar and stellar coronium, which has a density of about 0.2, and, he says,

cannot possibly be ether, its density being too great. It wanders, perhaps for ages, in the regions of space, breaks from the shackles of the earth, and again comes within its sphere, but

still it cannot escape from the regions of the sun's attraction. . . . The atoms of ether must be of another kind; they must be capable of overcoming the sun's attraction, of freely permeating all space, and of penetrating everything and everywhere. The element *y*, however, is necessary for us to be able to mentally realise the lightest and therefore swiftest element *x*, which I consider may be looked upon as the ether.

The conception is beautiful in simplicity, and the manner in which the philosopher works out the properties of *x*, to show, for instance, that its atomic weight is not more than a millionth that of hydrogen, is what fascinates the reader. It does not fit in with all radium phenomena, but it accounts for much, and while the electron theory is scoffed at, there seems no reason why electrons should not be regarded as *x* atoms.

Army-contracts.

A correspondent very properly calls attention to the fact that the War Office does employ pharmacists in the Medical Department, there being an inspector and an assistant-inspector of medical and surgical supplies. The higher position is held by Mr. J. Burden Barnes, Ph.C., son of Mr. J. B. Barnes, who for many years was a member of the Pharmaceutical Board of Examiners for England and Wales; and Mr. W. H. Walden, Ph.C., is the assistant-inspector. Mr. Barnes has been nineteen years in the War Office, and during the past ten years has filled the responsible position of inspector, this involving the purchase and disposal of supplies to the value of 25,000*l.* or more yearly. During the late South African war there was never a complaint about the service which this Department gave, although during the Crimean war the shortage of medical and surgical supplies was notorious. In regard to the disposal of surplus drugs, referred to a fortnight since, it is but fair to say that it is and has always been the practice of the War Office and other Government Departments to dispose of surplus stores and old stores when there appears to be no immediate prospect of utilising them in the ordinary course.

Business Changes.

MR. W. S. TAVENER, chemist and druggist, Farnham, has purchased the old-established business of Mr. F. Wheeler at 129 High Street, Guildford.

MR. T. COOPER, chemist and druggist, has taken over the business at 320 Roman Road, Bow, E., formerly carried on by Mr. W. H. Lyne, chemist and druggist.

MR. H. BARNETT, chemist and druggist, for many years manager to Mr. C. J. Taylor, at 101 Cover Road, Folkestone, has purchased Mr. J. V. Cobb's business at Hythe, Kent.

MR. P. DAVIES, pharmaceutical chemist, Handsworth, has disposed of his business to Mr. F. W. Smallwood, pharmaceutical chemist, until recently with Mr. Squire, of San Remo, Italy.

MR. D. GEORGE, chemist, Pentre, Rhondda Valley, has had an elegant new shop-front fitted to his premises by Messrs. Southall Brothers & Barclay (Limited), of Birmingham, an illustration of which appears in our advertisement-columns this week.

MR. E. N. FRANKENSTEIN, of Ropemaker Street, Finsbury, E.C., in a circular dated February 15, announces that in August, 1903, the partnership then subsisting between his brother and himself was dissolved, and he became sole proprietor of the business of S. M. Frankenstein & Co. He then reconstituted the membership of the firm on a wider basis, as from January 1. This has now been carried into effect by admitting into partnership Mr. John Frankenstein and Mr. Samuel Arthur Frankenstein, the sons of Mr. E. N. Frankenstein, Mr. John Charles Vickery, manager, and Mr. William Wright Donaldson. The style of the firm will remain as before—S. M. Frankenstein & Co.

Legal Reports.

Trade Law.

"Reckless" References.—At Brompton County Court on February 18, before Judge Stonor, a case was heard with some peculiar features. Mr. Alan Owen, of Notting Hill, was appealed to in regard to a gentleman who desired to rent a furnished house at West Kensington. Mr. Owen replied, "From what I know of Mr. —, he is in a position to pay the rent you mention, and is otherwise what I should call a respectable tenant." The man was accepted, but he left owing 37l. Mr. Owen admitted that he knew but little of the other man's financial position, and the jury found that he had "recklessly" made an untrue statement in his reply to the agent's letter, and they returned a verdict for him to pay 37l. to Mrs. Clark, the owner of the house.

High Court Cases.

SACCHARIN CORPORATION (LIMITED) v. THE TRUST CHIMIQUE.

THIS action came before Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady in the Chancery Division on Tuesday, March 1, by way of motion for judgment in default of defence. The plaintiffs are the registered proprietors of seven patents; they alleged infringement by the defendants, and claimed the usual relief. They complained that the defendants had offered for sale a substance called "sucramine," and they had specific instances of two consignments of 896 oz. and 1,792 oz. respectively, which had been landed at Harwich and sold to customers in this country. They did not know who the purchasers were till they got discovery. His Lordship granted an injunction and an order for inquiry and delivery up, costs of the inquiry to be reserved.

A PARAZONE INJUNCTION.

JUDGMENT was given by Lord Low, in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, on February 26, in an action in which the Parozone Company (Limited), 11 Bothwell Street, Glasgow, sought to interdict Johnston Gibson, 116 Taylor Street, Glasgow, from selling as parozone bleach any bleaching-fluid not made or supplied by the complainers, who are the sole manufacturers and sellers of parozone. It was alleged that the respondent had been in the habit of selling, in response to orders by customers for parozone, a bleaching-fluid not manufactured by the complainers. The respondent denied that he had ever sold his own bleaching-fluid for parozone. His Lordship held it proved that the respondent's practice had been to sell his own bleach in answer to orders for parozone, and granted interdict, with expenses.

Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

ARSENIC IN CREAM OF TARTAR.

AT the Loughborough Petty Sessions on February 24, Edmund L. P. Parker, chemist and druggist, Castle Donington, was summoned for selling cream of tartar containing arsenic. Mr. George Rowlatt, who prosecuted, said the proportion of arsenic discovered was $\frac{1}{10}$ gr. to the pound. The Royal Commission on Arsenic in Food in their report, recommended that a penalty should be inflicted if arsenic was present in an article of food to the amount of $\frac{1}{100}$ gr. In this case the quantity was ten times as much.

Mr. Wilfred Moss pleaded guilty on defendant's behalf, and reminded the Bench that the explanation given in a previous case before that Court of the presence of lead in cream of tartar was accounted for by the fact that the cream of tartar was distilled in leaden stills, and that the manufacturers were obviating this by using earthenware stills. It would now appear that they were jumping out of the frying-pan into the fire, for the arsenic probably came into the cream of tartar from the earthenware vessels in which it was made. It was well known that the glaze on many earthenware articles contained arsenic, and it was to be feared that in trying to avoid the lead-contamination the manufacturers ran the risk of getting arsenic in the cream of tartar. This was, of course, no answer to the case, but it was a matter of public interest. In view of these prosecutions, the only thing was for chemists and grocers to insist upon having a warranty that the article was in accordance

with the British Pharmacopœia. About two years ago defendant bought the stock of the late Mr. Farmer, a chemist of Castle Donington. Some of that stock was analysed and found perfectly pure, and he had not the slightest reason to suppose any of it was otherwise. Mr. Moss pointed out that the adulteration was very slight, and was not to be compared with the adulteration of any article of which considerable quantities were used for food. He added that as soon as he got the summons defendant put this cream of tartar away and ordered in a fresh stock, with which he obtained a warranty. A fine of 40s. was imposed.

SWEET SPIRIT OF NITRE.

AT Sheffield on February 26, Chas. Powell, grocer, was fined 10s. and costs for selling sweet spirit of nitre not up to the B.P. standard of strength.

AT the same court, William Kirby, chemist and druggist, of 36 Meadow Street, was similarly summoned, and a fine of 5s. and costs was imposed.

LIME-WATER.

AT Jarrow Police Court on February 29, Messrs. Mason & Co. (Limited) were summoned for selling a pint of lime-water at their shop in Ormonde Street, Jarrow, which the public analyst certified to be deficient in lime to the extent of 23.70 per cent. The certificate also stated that the sample "had suffered no change since purchase."

Mr. Newlands, for the defence, said his clients were unable to say how the deficiency had occurred, but there had been no wilful contravention of the law. Two ounces of lime, which cost about $\frac{3}{4}$ d., went to make a gallon of lime-water, and, therefore, any suggestion of dilution could scarcely be entertained. The defendants, he said, had decided to discontinue the sale of lime-water, and now supplied their customers with lime and instructions how to make lime-water.

Mr. Mason, managing director of the company, said the deficiency might have occurred through the bottle not having been sufficiently shaken when the lime-water was prepared; this would cause undissolved parts to fall to the bottom. In reply to the borough food and drugs inspector (Mr. E. Batey), who prosecuted, Mr. Mason said he was a chemist, but was not qualified. He knew the pharmacopœial method of making lime-water, but when asked to explain it to the Bench, said he did not make the lime-water in question. It was made by his assistant, and he (witness) did not take any means to get to know the strength of it.

The inspector, on handing the British Pharmacopœia to the Bench, said he did not suggest that defendant attempted to defraud the public, but he asserted that gross carelessness had been used in the manufacture of the lime-water.

Mr. Coldwell, the assistant who prepared the lime-water, said he put in the proper proportion of ingredients.

The Inspector: Are you a qualified chemist? Witness: No.

By the Bench: Have you a qualified chemist? Witness: Yes.

By the Bench: Is he in the Jarrow shop? Witness: No, at Shields.

After consideration, the Chairman said that in the opinion of the Bench there had been carelessness in the preparation of the lime-water, and defendants would be fined 10s., and 16s. 6d. costs.

Gazette.

Partnerships Dissolved.

Alexander, A., and Pirie, A. H., under the style of Alexander & Pirie, Highgate Road, N.W., and Kentish Town Road, N.W., physicians and surgeons.

Jeffery, E., and Mayne, W. S., under the style of Jeffery & Mayne, St. Austell, Cornwall, physicians, &c.

Lyle, A. J. M., and Marshall, J. W., under the style of Lyle & Marshall, Ashford, Kent, mineral-water manufacturers.

Roberts, T., and Lane, J., under the style of Dennis & Roberts, Nottingham, wholesale druggists, &c.

The Bankruptcy Acts, 1883 and 1890.**ADJUDICATIONS.**

Brooke, Wilton (trading as the Standard Essence Company), Staifoot, near Barnsley, Yorkshire, essence-manufacturer, and lately also manager and secretary to a limited company.

Harmer, James Dorking, Windsor, chemist and wine-and-spirit merchant.

Bankruptcy Report.

Re **GEORGE RICHARD KNIGHT**, 63 Castle Road, Southsea, Hants, Dealer in Photographic Apparatus.—A sitting for the public examination of this debtor was held at Portsmouth on February 29, a statement of whose affairs was published in last week's issue (page 355). Debtor admitted that he had over-bought, as the late Christmas season had turned out a bad one, but had it been otherwise he would have made a good turnover. The examination was closed.

New Companies & Company News.

LIGHTNING FURNITURE RENOVATOR COMPANY (LIMITED).—Capital 15,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares (7,500 preferred ordinary and 7,500 ordinary). Objects: To adopt an agreement with the Kitlene Syndicate (Limited), L. A. Holzinger, and E. M. Davey, and to carry on the business indicated by the title and that of chemists, druggists, oil and colourmen, importers and manufacturers of and dealers in glue, gelatine, and pharmaceutical, medicinal, chemical, industrial or other preparations, &c. No initial public issue. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Qualification, two shares. Remuneration as fixed by the company. Registered office, 146A Queen Victoria Street, E.C.

URANIUM RADIUM MINES DEVELOPMENT SYNDICATE (LIMITED.) Capital 20,000*l.*, in 1*l.* shares. Objects: To acquire and turn to account any mines, mining and other rights, concessions, grants prospectors' and diggers' licences, and metalliferous land in Great Britain or elsewhere, in particular to acquire options to purchase properties containing uranium ores and pitchblendes, tin, and other valuable mineral in Cornwall and Devonshire, to adopt an agreement with F. C. Anderson, and to carry on the business of miners, smelters, dressers, metal-workers, preparers of and dealers in ores and minerals of all kinds, &c. The first subscribers are: W. B. Parsons, 234 Monega Road, Manor Park, clerk; W. M. Bailey, Woodleigh, Forest Hill, S.E., accountant; D. J. Frith, 3 Waterloo Street, Camberwell Green, S.E., clerk; R. A. Draper, 139 Grove Lane, Denmark Hill, S.E., secretary; E. Goodwin, 105 Ringstead Road, Catford, clerk; A. J. McMillan, 15 Tower Royal, E.C., secretary; and A. Roberts, 28 Ossory Road, S.E., clerk. No initial public issue. The subscribers are to appoint the first directors. Qualification, 100*l.* Remuneration, 15*l.* each per annum (50*l.* extra for the managing director) and 10 per cent. of the net profits available for dividend after 10 per cent. has been paid on the shares, divisible. Registered office, 81-84 Dashwood House, E.C.

A. MILLAR & CO. (LIMITED).—The ninth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of this company was held in Dublin on February 18, Mr. Wm. Millar (managing director) presiding. The annual report was presented, showing a balance of 13,770*l.* 11*s.* 4*d.* The report was adopted, and dividends at the rate of 5 per cent. on the preference shares and 10 per cent. on the ordinary shares were declared. The sum of 750*l.* was placed to the reserve account, bringing it up to 13,250*l.* Messrs. Joseph Hone and W. P. Geoghegan were re-elected directors.

BRANDAM BROTHERS & CO. (LIMITED).—The report for 1903 states that the net profit for the year, after deduction of all charges, inclusive of 1,162*l.* for depreciation of machinery and plant, amounts to 8,950*l.* which, added to 540*l.* brought forward, gives a sum of 9,490*l.* to be dealt with. After refunding to the company the preference dividends paid in 1901, but unearned, amounting to 2,650*l.*, the directors recommend that 2,000*l.* be set aside to meet extraordinary plant expenditure; that a dividend of 5 per cent. be declared on the preference shares for one year, amounting to 3,750*l.*; and that the balance of 1,090*l.* be carried forward.

W. B. FORDHAM & SONS (LIMITED).—The eighteenth annual meeting of shareholders was held at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, on February 25, Mr. W. B. Fordham in the chair. In moving the adoption of the report and accounts and the payment of the dividend (6 per cent. for

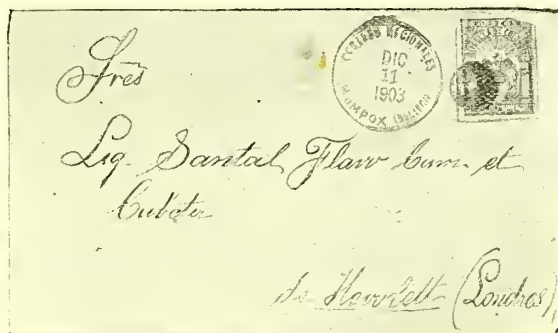
the year), the Chairman said that in face of the severe commercial depression of the past year they had much to be thankful for in having so satisfactory a balance-sheet. The motion was seconded by Mr. Burden, and unanimously agreed to. On the motion of Mr. Monshall, seconded by Mr. Burden, the re-election of Mr. Edward Fordham as a director was unanimously carried. Similar unanimity prevailed in the re-election of Mr. A. J. Monshall as a director, and of Mr. J. M. Henderson as the auditor, of the company.

EVANS SONS LESCHER & WEBB (LIMITED).—The report of the directors and balance-sheet for the year ended December 31, 1903, just issued, shows that the profit, after providing for establishment-expenses, bad and doubtful debts, discount, interest, income-tax, &c., was 38,831*l.* After providing for interest on the debenture stock (1,987*l.*), dividend on the preference shares (12,457*l.*), paying dividend on ordinary shares in July last (7,500*l.*), fees and salaries to directors (5,800*l.*) and other fees, there remains a balance of 9,880*l.* available for dividend on ordinary shares. In July last the directors declared an interim dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and they now recommend a further dividend on the ordinary shares for the six months ended December 31 at the rate of 12½ per cent. per annum, carrying forward the balance (505*l.*). The directors state that their general drug-trade at home and abroad has been fully maintained and developed, but the absence of warm weather last summer considerably interfered with the consumption of "Montserrat" lime-fruit juice and its preparations.

CIVIL SERVICE SUPPLY ASSOCIATION (LIMITED).—The ordinary general meeting was held on February 25 at Cannon Street Hotel, E.C., Mr. R. Bannister presiding. The Chairman said that there had been an increase in the number of members of 2,027. The decrease of sales in all departments was 23,693*l.*, or 1½ per cent. of the year's sales. That was satisfactory when the weather was taken into consideration. The gross turnover amounted to 267,857*l.* Regarding competition, when the association started, he said, manufacturers were satisfied to sell their goods to persons and not to stipulate the price at which the buyer was to resell them. At present, however, there are protective associations of manufacturers, who fix a minimum price at which goods are to be sold by retailers. If the association bought goods in large quantities, it expected to be in a better position in the market than small retailers; but in some cases small shops are able to sell at almost the same price as the stores, owing to the fixing of minimum prices. The gross income amounted to 267,857*l.*, and the balance on profit-and-loss account, together with the amount brought in, was 53,190*l.* Of that amount 2,000*l.* was placed to reserve fund, 1,500*l.* to pension fund, and 500*l.* to employees' fund. The report was adopted.

MORE P.O. SMARTNESS.

The officials at the General Post-office in London are ever demonstrating in their own quiet way that they know a thing or two, but we had not realised their therapeutic knowledge until Messrs. C. J. Hewlett & Son, Charlotte Street, E.C., sent us the annexed reproduction of an envelope which reached them through the P.O. without delay:



The envelope enclosed an order for liquor santali co. (Hewlett) from Bolivar, Colombia. Senores Santal. Flav. Cubeta et Buchu will stand as a record for some time, we fancy.

Winter Session.

Royal Photographic Society.

AT the last meeting of the Society (Major-General Waterhouse, I.A., in the chair) Mr. T. E. FRESHWATER, F.R.M.S., gave a lecture-demonstration on

THE HISTORY AND LIGHTING OF THE MAGIC-LANTERN.

The lecture was of peculiar interest, some valuable information being given not readily found in the text-books. The first conception of the magic-lantern and the modern optical lantern was by Kercher, a Jesuit priest, who lived nearly two hundred and fifty years ago. In 1802 a Frenchman named Phillips astonished the people of London with what was known as the phantasmagoria-lantern, held by the lanternist under his arm. The Argand pot-lamp was invented in 1769. This was improved upon later by placing a brass cone over the flame. In 1851 the Fountain Argand lamp was introduced, in which the glass chimney was nicked in about an inch above the wick, causing a contraction of the flame and a much whiter light. Then followed the lamp invented by Mr. Marcey, of Philadelphia, which had done good service until the present day. In this lamp there were two wicks, and petroleum was used, instead of the thick oil or tallow or lard of former days. An improvement on this lamp was brought out by Mr. Newton in 1876, and this was followed by the three-wick refulgent lamp, which found favour for many years. The lecturer went on to show and describe the lamp invented by Stocks, and then gave some advice as regards the cotton or wicks used in various classes of lanterns. The incandescent-gas light is very convenient for those who have gas laid on, although the light is not so good as that from a proper lamp. Acetylene has come much into use of late years, the only objection against its use being its smoke and smell. Coming to the question of the use of limelight, the lecturer exhibited and described the oxyhydro blowpipe invented by Professor Hare in 1801. In 1826 Lieutenant Drummond invented a lamp in which there was a flame of spirit beneath a small ball of lime, while a jet of oxygen was brought up through the flame. Then came the rotating of the lime by means of clockwork, but this method had gone quite out of fashion. Another class of lighting was found in oxycalcium burning with spirit. In 1832 Mr. J. Hemmings introduced the safety-jet lamp, in which he to some extent got over the difficulty of "firing back" by packing the jet with a large number of pieces of very fine brass wire, which provided some resistance to the flame when driven back.

In answer to some questions, the lecturer said that oxylith appears to be very useful for luminant-purposes, but it is very deliquescent.

Society of Chemical Industry.

NOTTINGHAM SECTION.

A MEETING of this Section was held at University College, Nottingham, on February 24, Mr. J. T. Wood being in the chair. There was a good average attendance, as Dr. Frank Clowes, chief chemist to the London County Council (who is practically the father of the Section), was down for two papers.

The CHAIRMAN, after welcoming Dr. Clowes once more amongst them, said that, owing to the exigencies of railway arrangements, it would be more convenient to take the last paper first, which Dr. Clowes wished should be done. Accordingly Mr. L. ARCHBUTT, F.I.C., chief chemist to the Midland Railway, read a note on

HANU'S IODINE-VALUES.

The author explained that results published by Hunt and Harvey have shown that iodine-values determined by means of Hanu's solution are lower than those got by Wij's solution. Figures were given obtained by acting on olive oil, rape oil, and on turpentine, all confirming this statement and showing that duplicate tests do not agree so well by Hanu's process as by that of Wij's.

Mr. WOOD asked if Mr. Archbutt had any figures for cod-liver oil.

Mr. ARCHBUTT said he had not, but he expected they would compare closely with those of linseed oil. He thought it a pity that there should be two methods in use giving different figures, and so introducing confusion in any comparison.

Mr. HARVEY quite agreed that Wij's method is the one to be preferred. He thought the solution easy to make, and had kept it for four and a half months without deterioration. Wij's method seems to give theoretical figures, and when one considers that the reaction is practically instantaneous—with earth-nut oil, for example, 98 per cent., and with linseed oil 99 per cent. of the absorption taking place in the first minute—the excellence of the process is obvious.

Dr. F. CLOWES then rose, and said their Chairman had gone a little too far in saying that he had learnt all his chemistry at that college, and that he (Dr. Clowes) had taught him his bacteriology. He should rather say that Mr. Wood had interested him in bacteriology, for he first saw in the laboratory in the Trent Works the results of his extraordinary perseverance, which induced him to put Mr. Wood in communication with Dr. A. Brown and Dr. Percy Frankland, with results that have been so beneficial to the science.

Dr. CLOWES then read a paper prepared in conjunction with Mr. W. J. H. Biggs on "The Solubility of Atmospheric Oxygen in Sea and Estuary Water of Varying Degrees of Salinity." The paper was to the effect that the diminished power of sea-water to absorb oxygen is due to the dissolved sodium chloride.

A discussion followed, in which Dr. CAVEN, Messrs. GOLDING, WARD, and others took part. In the course of his reply, Dr. CLOWES explained that the investigation originated in their finding that in the estuary of the Thames they never got 100 per cent. aëration in the water, although the full percentage was obtained along the whole course of the river where unmixed with sea-water.

Dr. CLOWES then read a further paper on "The Number of Bacteria in the Water of the North Sea, and the Effect of Sea and River Water, and of 'Biological Treatment' on the Number of Bacteria Present in Sewage." The author referred to the importance that this question had acquired in connection with the cases of poisoning that had taken place with contaminated oysters from time to time. He explained that the work was done and samples collected on a steamer equipped as a bacteriological laboratory. It appears that by the Nore Light, thirty-nine miles away from the place where the "effluent" enters the river, the bacteria number 145 per c.c. As a good drinking-water may contain as many as 237, it will be seen that their destruction and dispersion are fairly rapid. In the discussion, Mr. J. T. WOOD said he had found that sea-water rather favours putrefaction than prevents it. As to the destructive action of light on bacteria, he referred to Russell's statement that he had found very few bacteria on the surface of the sea, but at a depth of about 100 fathoms the water contained 260 per c.c.

Edinburgh Chemists', Assistants', and Apprentices' Association.

A MEETING was held at 36 York Place, Edinburgh, on Wednesday, February 24, at 9.15 P.M., Mr. Archibald Currie (President) in the chair. In the unavoidable absence, through a slight illness, of Mr. David Storrar, Kirkcaldy, Mr. RUTHERFORD HILL read his paper on

THE FUTURE OF PHARMACY AS A TRADE.

The author hopes to celebrate his jubilee as a pharmacist this year, and as he considers it the clear duty of those who grow old in the profession to place their experience at the service of its younger members, he now spoke in regard to the future of our craft, as to which he is not a pessimist. Old methods are rapidly becoming disorganised, and we should adapt ourselves to the altered circumstances and prepare ourselves for the new conditions. Fifty years ago the hours in pharmacy were long, on Sundays especially—much longer than they are at present. In one of the historic London pharmacies, where the author was in 1860, work commenced at 7.30 A.M., and there were half an hour for breakfast, three-quarters of an hour for dinner, and half an

hour for tea, the day finishing at 9 P.M. and 10 P.M. on alternate nights. There were no weekly half-holidays, and every third Sunday assistants were on duty all day. The pay was also very small. Mr. Storrar's first salary as an assistant was 30% outdoors, and in the London shop referred to a Major man was serving as an assistant at 30% indoors. Nowadays assistants' salaries, as well as the remuneration of employers, are not what they should be; but they are better than they were, and the conditions of employment are immeasurably better.

Fifty years ago there were fewer drug-shops in Scotland, consequently there were more shops with a large connection and doing a larger trade than at the present time. Trade in the larger towns was drawn not only from the immediate neighbourhoods but from the surrounding country; and the opening of drug-shops in every little town, as well as the advent of company-trading, has seriously curtailed that class of business.

The ordinary country chemist's business must have been, however, as a general rule much smaller than it is now, and the average profit no greater. Retail prices were certainly better, and expenses of all kinds less; but a much larger proportion of the doctors [in Scotland] did their own dispensing, and what of it came to the chemist was charged at even a lower average rate than that of the cutter of the present day—and very often from what they did charge a fairly large percentage found its way into the pockets of the prescribers. There can be no doubt that the higher rates for dispensing which gave the limited companies their opportunity were the outcome of the higher status and the protection given by the Pharmacy Acts. Full price was certainly got for patents, but neither the demand for these nor for medical advice had reached anything like the extent to which the higher wages and the increased prosperity of the community have since brought it up to. The general impression appears to be that the average income of the present-day chemist is less than it was, and this is no doubt true when compared with the prosperous times of twenty-five or thirty years ago; but with the middle of last century the comparison would be found to be in favour of the present time. What misleads us is that, in common with the rest of the community, we lived much more simply in those earlier days, and that neither personal nor family expenses ran so high. The author then gave some extracts from an 1810 ledger. In it there were twenty accounts for supplies of crude drugs and preparations to doctors, showing how common the dispensing medical man was in those days. The following were the charges made for dispensing to country people: Pills, 3*d*. per dozen; powders, 1*d*. each; ointments, 3*d*. per oz.; antimonial wine, 3*d*. per oz.; tinctures, 4*d*. per oz.; infusions, 1*d*. per oz.; and mixture to recipe, 3*d*. Amongst other prices then in vogue were: antibilious pills, 2*d*. per dozen; castor oil, 3*d*. per oz.; essence of lemon, 1*s*. 6*d*. per oz.; rhubarb, 1*s*. per oz.; soda-water, 3*s*. 6*d*. per dozen; and Howards' soda, 1*s*. 3*d*. per lb. Mr. Storrar next spoke of the passing of the Pharmacy Act, 1838, and its achievements, as well as its failures, this bringing him to speak of company-pharmacy, as to which he urged chemists to educate Parliament and the public in respect to the objects of the Pharmacy Bill, which he said is in the main right, and should give us what, at present, we entirely lack—namely, the power of regulating the whole of the trade. It would give us more than this: it would give us

that which the Pharmaceutical Society endeavoured unsuccessfully to secure more than thirty years ago—restriction of the sale of medicinal drugs or preparations and of the compounding of medicines to registered chemists.*

Assuming that the Bill passes, what better would we be? We would still have the combination of store and company against us. Quite true; but they would not have the free hand which they have now. We would at least know where we were; we would stand on solid ground, and not upon a quicksand. We would pit against impersonality and cheapness personality and efficiency, against commercialism professional knowledge. The future of pharmacy is with the pharmacist if his training is pursued on the right lines. He

must conduct his business on business principles, certainly: buy keenly and sell keenly; but he must never forget that he is selling more than drugs—that he is selling a knowledge of his wares, of their properties, qualities, uses, and modes of preparation. He should be able to say, "This is right because I made it, and that I know is wrong because I have tested it." He should cultivate his personality, and so gain the confidence of his customers, and he should without hesitation claim the reward of his knowledge and professional skill. Mr. Storrar confessed that he has been slowly but surely changing his views on various points in connection with the future of the trade, and is gradually forced to the conclusion that its future lies in the better education and higher training of the individual pharmacist.

Mr. D. B. DOTT, in moving a vote of thanks, said Mr. Storrar is deservedly held in the highest esteem as a typical pharmacist of large experience and wide knowledge. The future of pharmacy is a difficult subject to deal with, but it is interesting and instructive to see how one of such long experience looks at the matter. He agreed with Mr. Storrar that the maintenance of a high standard of education is of very great importance.

Mr. PETER BOA, in seconding the vote of thanks, agreed that the Preliminary examination is not in advance of the necessities of the case. In other callings higher training is regarded as needful; thus in Edinburgh this winter there are special courses of lectures to grocers' assistants, these being the outcome of the keenness of competition in that trade, thus showing the necessity for the best possible equipment. Mr. Boa cordially endorsed Mr. Storrar's view that in selling their wares chemists should never forget that they are selling also their skill and knowledge, and that they should add something by way of return. As to the future, he believed the professional aspect of pharmacy would be more and more recognised.

The CHAIRMAN also commented upon the paper, and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. J. G. SCLATER then read Mr. David McLaren's paper entitled

IF THE DRUG-BUSINESS IS A "TRADE," WHY SO MUCH PREPARATION?

This was a discursive commentary on the state of things in pharmacy. Quoting Ogilvie, Mr. McLaren said trade is "the business which a person has learned and which he carries on for procuring subsistence or for profit. A handicraft, distinguished from the liberal arts and learned professions, and from agriculture; as we speak of the trade of a smith, of a carpenter, or mason, but we never say the trade of a farmer, or of a lawyer, or physician." He then proceeded to examine pharmacy in the light of that definition, stating that at the present time it may come under the first clause, but in too many cases not under the second. The present-day tendency is simply to charge the lowest possible price for our work—an unjustifiable thing in itself to do. Quality, accuracy, skill, and knowledge should all have special value attached to them; but it is incumbent on pharmacists not only to be careful to see that all the ingredients in a prescription are accurately and correctly weighed or measured, but to see that the necessary skill has been exercised so as to bring about the best results. A mere profit on the contents is not enough recompense for that. Boys who go into the drug-business have a special training. After having passed a strict general-knowledge examination, they are taught to sweep floors, clean windows, polish bottles and counters and cases, wash measures—and break them—and mortars, and a lot of other duties admirably fitted for their future career as pharmacists. The boy or the man who does all these things well will, in the course of his studies of pharmacy, materia medica, or chemistry, come to the front. But he should have time for study. Our predecessors in 1843 did a noble thing in securing a charter for the Pharmaceutical Society; and in 1838 a real Act conferring all necessary benefits, and securing to chemists and druggists the sole right to deal in and dispense poisons, was passed, but, through careless drafting, limited companies have to a large extent partaken of the good things that should have gone to make the chemist fat. Every change hitherto has been in the direction of crippling pharmacy at all hands. Young men avoid the business. Thirteen guineas for fees alone, not to mention the cost of classes, is far too much. The qualifying

* This is a quotation given by Mr. Storrar; we do not know the writer, but it goes too far, as the Pharmacy Bill will not restrict the sale of drugs more than is done by the present Act.—EDITOR.

examination should be divided and the tests, particularly in dispensing, are scarcely fair as to the ability of the examinee. Should the examiner see fit to set, as is now and again done, a theoretical prescription entailing some arithmetical calculations too cumbrous to grasp, he should not write it to be made up, but simply, after the other work has been done, lay it down and ask the man how he would go about it. The result of the returns of passes would not then be 30 per cent.

Mr. LUNAN, in proposing a vote of thanks, said Mr. McLaren whole-heartedly believed that their business is merely a trade and that so much preparation is unnecessary. He (Mr. Lunan) did not agree with that. With regard to so-called theoretical prescriptions in the examination-room, he said he had never seen any prescription there that might not be met with any day in actual practice.

Mr. DONALD MCEWAN, in seconding, said he did not think the present regulations asked too much in the way of education. They had been hearing too much of the opinion of the rejected candidate as to dispensing problems, and it would be well to hear what was to be said on the other side. He did not think the suggestion of unfairness was well founded.

Mr. McCUTCHEON thought the prescriptions set in the Minor should be published for the guidance of intending candidates, as was done with the Major questions.

Mr. RUTHERFORD HILL said the progress of co-operation would be a most important competitor with individualism in pharmacy, hence the vast importance of thorough education and equipment, so that in a communistic as well as in an individualistic state, the position of the pharmacist would be duly protected.

The CHAIRMAN put the motion to the meeting, and it was carried.

Mr. Alexander McCutcheon was unanimously elected Vice-President in room of Mr. A. E. Kelly, who has gone to fill an appointment in England.

Public Dispensers' Association.

A MEETING was held at the St. Bride's Institute, Ludgate Circus, E.C., on February 24, Mr. F. Noad Clark in the chair. There was a small attendance of members.

RAISING THE SUBSCRIPTION.

The CHAIRMAN said that, regarding the question of raising the annual subscription to the Association from 2s 6d. to 5s. for London and suburban members, a ballot had been taken by post, and that thirty had replied. Of these twenty-two were in favour of raising the subscription, and eight were against. The Chairman added that it would be wise to leave the subscription as at present, lest there should be a decrease in membership. A compromise of 3s. 6d. was suggested, but this was lost by a narrow majority. After further discussion it was finally decided to make the subscription 5s. to London and suburban members, while the country members paid 2s. 6d. as formerly.

It was decided to hold the

ANNUAL SMOKING-CONCERT

on April 6 at the Albion Hotel, Ludgate Circus, E.C. Already 102 tickets have been guaranteed, and there is every indication that the evening will be a success.

THE NEW PRESIDENT.

The SECRETARY read a letter from Mr. T. H. W. Idris undertaking to again accept the Presidency.

A GENERAL DISCUSSION

followed. Mr. WELFORD referred to the prosecution of Wimble's Drug-stores, suggesting that the question of un-registered persons giving away poisons should be looked into.

Attention was also called to the spurious cod-liver oil which is being supplied to some public institutions. One member stated that he had tested the oil at his institution, and it failed to answer the B.P. tests.

The difficulty of making a presentable mixture of bismuth salicylate was next discussed. One member stated that he had been supplied with some of the drug, which was of a

decided crystalline character and very light. It could not be suspended satisfactorily either with mucilage of acacia or compound tragacanth powder. Another member stated that he had got over the difficulty by getting the doctors to order the drug in powder form, the powders being put up by a wholesale house, whereupon a member said, "This is a very humiliating admission; our occupation will soon be gone!"

The CHAIRMAN called attention to the Exhibition of Novelties to be held at the St. Bride's Institute on March 30. Many firms had promised already to send goods for exhibition, and the evening would be both interesting and instructive. Members were invited to bring friends with them.

Barnsley Chemists' Association.

A MEETING was held at the Royal Hotel, Barnsley, on Thursday, February 25, the President (Mr. H. B. Billington) in the chair.

Replies from the several proprietors of patent medicines written to by the Secretary were read. Messrs. Prout & Harsant's letter announcing that Blair's pills have been put on the P.A.T.A. list was received with satisfaction. The Secretary (Mr. W. Rigby) was appointed to represent the Association at the annual dinner of the Wakefield Association.

A discussion on medicine stamp-duty took place, and the Secretary was instructed to ask the editors of the trade-journals—

"Why preparations such as tabloids, &c., even if a pure drug or if the formula is disclosed, should be sold without medicine-stamp, when the Law Courts have decided that the makers have a proprietary right in the name of the preparation?"

[The Editor of THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST replies as follows: In the case of tabloids the word is applied to a series of preparations, and is, therefore, within the ruling that has been followed by the Board of Inland Revenue for many years, to the effect that the use of a trade-mark in connection with a class of medicines does not make them liable to stamp-duty. Mr. Justice Byrne's decision in the recent "tabloid" case was in regard to the property in the word "tabloid." There is a distinction between (1) proprietary rights in a trade-mark and (2) proprietary rights in medicines to which the trade-mark is applied. It is the former and not the latter which Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co. claim; and they appear not to do this in such a manner as to bring the medicines within the general charge of duty under the Medicine-stamp Acts. There is an almost parallel instance in the case of Savaresse's capsules, where the capsule or envelope itself is patented, but the fact does not make the medicine in Savaresse's capsules liable to duty.]

Mr. NORWOOD suggested that the members of the Association should have uniform formulæ for mixtures (cough, &c.) to retail in small quantities, the formula to be disclosed. Other members discussed the matter, but the question was adjourned for further consideration.

Wakefield Chemists' Association.

THERE was little business before the meeting held on Tuesday evening. Mr. Whaley was in the chair, and he was supported by Messrs. Green, Duffin, Chaplin, Judge (Hon. Secretary), and Pollard. The CHAIRMAN spoke of his attendance at the annual dinner of the Dewsbury Association, and the HON. SECRETARY reported arrangements which had been made for the annual dinner of the Wakefield Association, to be held on March 23. The Federation's letter, &c., on the Pharmacy Bill were placed before the meeting, but the members were not aware that the Bill had been introduced, so came to no resolution.

Chemists' Assistants' Association.

THE Junior Pharmacy Ball (which was held the previous evening) was probably responsible for the very meagre attendance at the Association's meeting on February 25. In the absence of the President, Mr. A. Latreille presided. The demonstration given by Mr. ROBINS, of the Kodak Company, on gaslight printing-papers proved very interesting all round. The collodio-chloride paper gave some fine prints, the deep tones being especially noticeable. The Kodak Dakko paper is a quick-printing paper, which may be exposed

and developed in gaslight or subdued daylight without the use of a dark-room. Mr. Robins showed how easy the process is. The orthochromatic N.C. films and Kodoid plates were also the subject of experiment. Mr. Robin threw on the lantern-screen slides to show the difference between photos taken with an ordinary plate, with an orthochromatic plate, and when a yellow screen is used with the ortho plate. In the last case there is a slight tendency to halation. Other novelties shown were the Primo film, pack, and camera, and a very handy spool-developer. A cordial vote of thanks to Mr. Robins and the Kodak Company was passed at the close of the proceedings.

Association Ballads.

THE PURPOSE.

*The men, their aims, their daily irk;
Their troubles, trials, thoughts, and views
On things politic, foes that lurk
In friendly guise, but treach'rous work—
These be the burden of our Muse.*

IX.—BRISTOL.

From that ancient Western seaport, in the page of History noted,
Many pharmaceutical giants have been sent:
Able Giles and Schacht and Stoddart, whose opinions still are
quoted,

For their minds were never narrow, cribbed, or pent.
There the home of liq. bismuthi and the birthplace of nepenthe,
And the dwelling-place of Ferris and of Fry;
E'en to mention Bristol's virtues would involve a pean lengthy,
And would pump the well polyphonous quite dry.

Of these pharmacists so famous there are present-day successors,
Who acquit them with distinction, void of wiles:
There is White, the ever-kindly, friend of doctors and professors,
Knows the flora of the Balearic Isles,
And can spot a *Galactites* or unearth a *Cynoglossum*,
Or can bang a batch of asafetid pills;
While he tells of plants that prosper in the land of the opossum,
'Twixt the cypress-scrub and everlasting hills.

There is Matthews, young and clever, an examiner respected
For his courtesy and tact and lack of "side";
There are Turner, Taylor, Townsend—eager, artless, unaffected,
Known and noted in the district far and wide;
So with Boucher, Buxton, Berry, Presley, Partridge, Keen, and
Plumley—

Names that pharmacy and Bristol both revere;
For they go their ways so gaily (never glinting on us glumly)
That they mellow all that's turning to the sere.

On the heights of haughty Clifton see the winding Avon glisten,
There inhale the fragrant breezes on the Downs;
Then away to Bristol College, and to speeches you may listen
That will ease out all the sub-angelic frowns
That the stress of life engenders in the struggling chemist's lot,
And the heart attuned to sympathy is strong
By the help of Wilkes or Dibble, Grant or Good, or Nethercott,
Cooper, Davies, Cox, or Sleight, or Stroud, or Young.

Royally they entertained us when the B.P.C. was sitting
In that Bristol seat of learning; and we gained
Many friendships that will last until with evanescent flitting
Feeble gleams of more divergent joys have waned.
Time may pale the recollection of the hosts that were our
brothers,

And, perchance, a blank forgetfulness ensue;
But the fame that is historic lives through all, and nothing
smothers

Up the legacy of deeds that good men do.

Births.

OATES.—On February 27, at Bedworth, Warwickshire, the wife of C. H. Oates, chemist and druggist, of a daughter.

RALPH.—On February 21, the wife of William Ralph, pharmaceutical chemist, Lee, S.E., of a daughter.

Marriage.

BEEBE—STOODLEY.—On February 28, at St. Augustine-the-Less, College Green, Bristol, Joseph Beebe, of Hammersmith, London, to Mary Jane (Pollie), widow of the late Mr. Charles Stoodley, chemist, of Bristol.

Trade Notes.

MR. L. S. MACPHAIL, who, as representative of Aëraturs (Limited), visited India last autumn, leaves this week for a similar business-trip to Egypt and Constantinople.

THE VINOLIA COMPANY (LIMITED), who held an appointment as soapmakers to the late Queen Victoria, have been appointed, by royal warrant, soapmakers to King Edward VII.

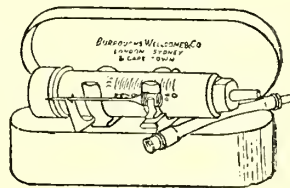
"IVY-JUICE" is the name given to a new corn-cure by the Walker Manufacturing Company, 50 Berry Street, Liverpool, who offer a sample packet and novel advertising-matter free on application.

PROTECTED.—The additions to the P.A.T.A. protected list during February were Blair's gout and rheumatic pills, Doughty's lozenges, Frampton's pill of health, Knight's liver-purges and golden blood-mixture, Pearson's antiseptic, powder, soaps, and liniment.

PICTURE-POSTCARDS.—Messrs. Gibson & Son, chemists, Hexham, send us a set of twenty-five picture-postcards, which they have just published. The photographs of places of local interest used in making the postcards were taken by Mr. J. R. Gibson and Mr. John Gibson. The postcards are in all respects technically perfect.

We learn from Paris that the very complete and up-to-date "explorer's pharmacy" recently fitted out in London for Baron Maurice de Rothschild, who is now on his way for a long shooting and scientific expedition through Abyssinia and Uganda with the Marquis de Bonchamps, has given great satisfaction. The "pharmacy" was fitted out by Messrs. Roberts & Co., 76 New Bond Street, W., under the personal direction of Mr. W. J. Patey.

A SERUM-SYRINGE. — We have examined Messrs. Burroughs Wellcome & Co.'s new all-glass aseptic serum-syringe which is the perfection of up-to-date scientific requirements in serum-treatment. The syringe is enclosed in a polished metal case which contains, besides the requisite parts (detached), two steel needles. The strict avoidance of septic contamination of the serum being the pre-eminent requisite in sero-therapy, the syringe (properly so-called) is made entirely of glass, and is in three detachable pieces, comprising the nozzle, barrel, and piston. The piston, which is solid, is finely ground and, like the nozzle, fits the barrel to a nicety; thus no packing is necessary and complete sterilisation is easy. The needle and the nozzle are attached by a flexible rubber joint, the idea being to guard against injury from any sudden movement on the part of the patient. Steel needles are used, but platino-iridium needles may be substituted if so desired. The syringe before us is of 2 c.c. capacity, but 3 c.c., 5 c.c., 10 c.c., and 20 c.c. sizes are also made. The illustration shows the syringe with the nozzle resting on the rubber attachment.



ITALIAN OLIVE OIL.—In his report on the trade of South Italy for 1903, Mr. Consul-General Neville-Rolfe, of Naples, states that the exports of olive oil from Gioja Tauro from January 1 to October 31 last year amounted to 1,768 tons for abroad and 3,783 tons for home consumption. The export was mainly of common oils to Russia for illuminating-purposes. From the Adriatic Coast the exports were very limited. Russian custom was largely transferred to Spain on account of the depreciation of gold in that country, which rendered Spanish oil much cheaper than Italian. It eventually proved that the Russian merchants were much disappointed in the quality of the Spanish oils, which the Russians require for burning-purposes. In many cases shipments were refused, and other troubles occurred which are likely to divert the trade back to Italy in future years.



TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Please write clearly and concisely on one side of the paper only. All communications should be accompanied by the names and addresses of the writers. If queries are submitted, each should be written on a separate piece of paper. We do not reply to queries by post, and can only answer on subjects of general interest.

No Conjunction.

SIR,—In your issue of February 27, page 370, I notice an article headed "Drug-store Keepers get Exemption 3." At the top of the second column the following passage appears: "The Patent-medicine Vendors' and Drug-stores Association was working with the Wholesalers' Association, of which Mr. Parkinson is President, in regard to the body-name concession." Will you allow me to inform your readers that this is not correct? Our Association did not work in conjunction with either the Patent-medicine Vendors or any other association when we presented our case to Somerset House for the use of names of organs in the names of medicines. We worked quite independently of any other person or association, and obtained the sanction in a letter from Somerset House dated October 28, 1903. I was quite unaware that any action was being taken to admit unregistered persons to take advantage of Exemption 3 until I opened your journal to-day, and therefore neither I, personally, nor our Association, can claim any credit or accept any blame (according to the view of those interested) for the obtaining of this new interpretation.

Yours truly,

WM. PARKINSON,

President of the Association of Wholesale
Druggist and Manufacturers of Medicinal
Preparations.

Burnley, February 23.

The Claim against Somerset House.

SIR,—We were rather surprised at the timid tone of Xrayser's remarks on the subject of our claim; it seems so different from that he adopted when writing on the Glyn-Jones decision:

So accustomed have we been to bow humbly to the Inland Revenue authorities in matters of this kind that we have neglected our statutory privileges. . . . I hope chemists and druggists now they have got the privilege will fight for it hard. (*C. & D.*, July 5, 1903)

Xrayser is afraid the result of pushing our claim may be that the Board will discontinue to accept compromise penalties. But how many opportunities will the Board have of threatening chemists now that chemists occupy a well-defined position under the exemption clause? Besides, the object of the Board is to obtain revenue, and it is just possible they have been getting more by private fines than they would have obtained from public prosecutions. But even if the Board deliberately decide to prosecute in every case chemists need not be afraid. There is now a C.D.A. willing to relieve chemists of all responsibility.

We are, &c.,

Dundee, March 1.

CUMMINGS BROTHERS.

[Another letter on this subject is unavoidably held over.]

An Astounding Concession

SIR,—It seems to me that we are forgetting that the Board of Inland Revenue are not interpreters of law or Acts of Parliament, that being a duty belonging to magistrates and judges. Also, the Board cannot add to, or take from, the Patent medicine Acts, but have to see that they are administered according to the letter of the Acts. Now, I contend that what you call "an astounding concession" is not a concession at all. The words in the Patent-medicine Act are:

Any surgeon, apothecary, chemist, or druggist who hath served a regular apprenticeship.

Here you see that a chemist and a druggist may be two separate persons, one a chemist and one a druggist, or a

chemist and druggist. The title "chemist and druggist" came into use with the Pharmacy Act, with which the Board have nothing to do. You say

the deciding point is the simple question, Are you a chemist? and if the person desiring the privilege of the exemption clause cannot legally answer that question in the affirmative, there is no need of going further.

That interpretation is contrary to the words of the Act. A chemist may not keep open shop and may have no need of the exemption clause, and the same may be said of nearly all surgeons and apothecaries, although they are entitled to avail themselves of the exemption when they may wish to do so. If there is a concession at all, it is in the contrary direction. It is the chemist and druggist and the pharmaceutical chemist who have not been apprenticed who are shadowed by the concession in reference to this clause. Certainly the chemist or druggist who has served an apprenticeship, but who is not a registered chemist and druggist, receives no concession. He exercises his privilege. You also say

the Board regard as a chemist or druggist any person who can prove that he hath served a regular apprenticeship to a chemist and druggist. This is absurd, because no such person is a chemist or druggist *de facto* until he is registered as such under the Pharmacy Act.

You are right as regards the Pharmacy Act if you use the word and instead of *or* between "chemist" and "druggist," but you are quite wrong when you apply that interpretation to the Patent-medicine Act, with which alone the Board have to deal. A person who has served a seven years' regular apprenticeship, and who has been in the business ever since, is *de facto* as much a chemist and druggist, or a chemist or druggist, as a registered chemist and druggist, as far as the Patent-medicine Act is concerned. The Board have to deal with one Act, the Pharmaceutical Society with the other. I have always held this view, and cannot think with you that the decision is so "extraordinary and revolutionary." The Board have made concessions, but this is not one of them, and, moreover, it is a "concession" they cannot set aside. When cases come before the Magistrates (many thanks to the C.D.A.) some of these decisions as well as concessions will, I fear, be altered. Take their decision on the possessive case on its merits alone: I believe it will fall through. The Board's concession in allowing the initial letters of a book and the number of the recipe to be printed on the label of the compound sold without a stamp is sufficient in order to take advantage of the exemption clause. This is a great concession, and would appear to show a weak point in the Board's powers. If chemists and druggists are obliged (which I doubt) to make known the contents of a compound, sold without a stamp to show that it is not a secret remedy, then I do not believe that any magistrate would consider simply printing the initial letters and number upon the packet a sufficient disclosure of the contents, but rather would consider it as making the compound more secretive and proprietary. It is no doubt well, and better, to publish the formula to save the Board trouble and us worry; but in any dispute between the Board and a chemist selling a compound without a stamp, it should be sufficient to show the Board the seller's indentures of apprenticeship, or certificate of registration, without dragging him into court to prove his right.

Yours very truly,

GEO. P. POND.

63 Fleet Street, City, February 29.

Brief Letters and Letters in Brief.

WAR OFFICE MUDDLES.—*Pharmacist* (63/5) writes: "I am afraid your able contributor 'Xrayser' has been caught napping in his paragraph headed 'War Office Muddling.' For many years past Mr. J. Burden Barnes, Ph.C., has been Inspector of Medical Supplies at the War Office, and he and the Assistant Inspector, Mr. W. H. Walden, Ph.C., worked like Britons during the Boer War."

WHAT PROFIT TO THE CHEMIST?—*Mr. Wm. Forster* (Seaham Harbour) says: "I am glad to see your editorial and note of disapproval [re the drug-storekeepers' concession]. Probably you will recollect my commenting on the foresight of Leo Atkinson should such a state of affairs come about as extension of exemption to unqualified individuals. The Glyn-Jones case will be a bad one for us, if the Board do not revoke this their latest decision."

Legal Queries.

Labels to be marked "Liable" or "Not liable" to medicine stamp-duty should be sent to the Editor in duplicate and with a stamped and addressed envelope for return of the marked ones.

46/16. *Antipyrin* asks whether after March 31 the publication of a showcard or handbill as below would, in our opinion, be permissible:

Important Notice.

In order to conform with the new regulations enforced by the Inland Revenue, on and after April 1, 1904, the names of the following preparations, prepared by me, will be changed, but their composition will remain unaltered: Antibilious pills will be styled aperient pills; indigestion-mixture will be styled stomach-mixture; toothache-tincture will be styled tooth-tincture, &c.

[Such a public notice will, on and after March 31, make the medicines liable to stamp-duty.]

50/64. *Preservative*.—No legal limits have been fixed, under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, for the quantities of borax, boric acid, or other preservatives to be added to meat. The Food-preservatives Committee made no recommendation on this point.

50/35. *F. H. R.*—Every one of the labels which you send to us (except the underquoted) involves liability to stamp-duty, but you as a registered chemist can secure exemption by marking each label "Prepared according to 'Pharmaceutical Formulas,' No. . . ." The non-liable labels are Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20.

48/2. *Scientia*.—All the information you require regarding the sale of poisons is given in our *Diary*. See the special regulations on page 274.

47/71. *Owain*.—The wording on the wrapper of your cooling and teething powder will, if put on the label, make the article conform to the Board of Inland Revenue's regulation as to the sale of known, admitted, and approved remedies by registered chemists. Printing the disclosure on the wrapper is insufficient.

51/36. *Ajax*.—Six years is fixed by the Statute of Limitations for the recovery of penalties, and this applies in the case mentioned by you.

53/7. *Apenta*.—An "off" wine-licence is necessary for selling Wincarnis.

59/7. *A. D.*—"Prevents decay of the teeth" is not a dutiable description on tincture of myrrh and borax. "Tooth-tincture" is not dutiable. If you mark your cooling and teething powder labels "Prepared according to 'Pharmaceutical Formulas,' No. 10," the preparation will not be liable, that being the number of your formula.

44/41. *Alpha* puts the following case:

A the principal, B the assistant. A dies. B takes over the business, and also dies. C takes the business of B's widow, and pays the rent quarterly, entering the premises February, and pays the first quarter's rent in April, as it had always been paid on the 11th of January, April, July, and October. After a time the landlord raises the rent, giving C notice in July, who, thinking he was a January tenant, did not offer it in October. The landlord then informed him he was an October tenant, but consented to take the rise from January. No agreement has passed between the landlord and C. What length of notice would C have to give, and at what time?

This is a continuance to B and C of an agreement originally made between A and the landlord. In the absence of evidence to the contrary we must accept the landlord's statement that the tenancy dates from Michaelmas (September), in which case notice to quit has to be given on Lady Day (March).

75/80. *Trade-mark*.—Under the International Convention of 1883 citizens of the United States have priority of registration in this country of any trade-mark which they have registered in the United States. The term of priority is four

months. The case which you state does not mention when the party in this country registered the American trade-mark, but if after the four months, and the other conditions are as stated by you, the party on this side has not only prior right to the mark, but has independently created other rights.

Miscellaneous Inquiries.

We endeavour to reply promptly and practically to trade questions of general interest, but cannot guarantee insertion of replies on a particular date, nor can we repeat information given during the past twelve months.

242/70. *Constant*.—Iron in Springs.—We do not remember to have seen any data as to the rate of solubility of iron in water impregnated with carbon dioxide. It is not possible to say what the average of iron is in chalybeate springs. Fresenius ("Quantitative Analysis," Vol. II.) prefers to estimate the ferrous iron by titration with dilute permanganate—500 c.c. of the water acidified with sulphuric acid being taken. Traces of iron in mineral waters are readily indicated by a dark violet colour with gallic or tannic acid.

257/24. *H. S.*—Meat-inspectors' Guide.—The following are the recognised books on meat-inspection: Stacpole & Melvill's "Guide to Meat-inspection for Regimental Officers," 1s. 6d. (Eyre & Spottiswoode), and Walley's "Practical Guide to Meat-inspection" (Pentland). The first book is an Army handbook, but contains coloured plates showing the characteristics of various joints of meat.

3/3. *J. E. R.*—Gramophone-recorders are made of a mixture of paraffin-wax (2) and white wax (1), and the surface is turned true in a lathe. Some makers employ a mixture of aluminium soap and carnauba wax, but we have no information as to the proportions.

4/23. *R. S.*—The Neuralgia-mixture keeps all right if made with distilled water, but elixir phosphori and liq. ferri dialys. are unstable constituents and are not, in our opinion, suitable for a stock neuralgia-mixture.

22/1. *Quereus*.—Removing Aniline-ink Stains.—See *C. & D.*, October 10, 1903, page 626.

63/22. *Perplexed*.—The best list of incompatibles and directions in regard to them are given in "The Art of Dispensing."

4/8. *F. S. M. B.*—(1) *Mist. Vin. Antim.* (St. John's Hospital).—The formula for this is:

Vin. antimoni....	...	...	...	℥ss.
Magnes. sulph.	...	...	...	gr. xx.
Inf. gentianæ co. ad ...	...	...	...	5ss.

(2) *Bassorin*, used as an ointment-basis, is made by moistening powdered tragacanth, 1 part, with spirit, adding glycerin, 50 parts (by weight), and heating till clear.

38/16. *Webb*.—Self-raising Flour is made by mixing tartaric acid, 1 lb., sodium bicarbonate, 1½ lb., with flour, 280 lbs. The ingredients should be dried separately before mixing.

20/74. *M. O.*—Furniture-polish.—This contains all the usual ingredients, wax, soap, turpentine, and water, but the last-named ingredient is present in a larger proportion than usual, which would account for the thinness of the cream.

244/40. *Pilula*.—The Female Pills are a Bland's pill in capsule form, such as Warrick Bros. make. There does not appear to be any arsenic present.

221/57. *H. & Co.*—We cannot undertake an analysis on the meagre details you give. What you call a "leather-softener" looks like a boot-sole dressing.

235/46. *J. G.*—We cannot identify the pile-ointment ingredients from your description, unless the constituents be alum and terra japonica.

20/28. *H. G.*—Your analysis can hardly be improved upon.

32/46. *Borax*.—Metal-cleaner like your sample:

Liquid ammonia	...	...	...	3ij.
Kieselguhr	...	...	...	3j.
Powdered soap	...	...	...	3j.

Mix.

Shake before use.

This makes a good preparation for cleaning scales and weights.

3/39. *J. P. P.*—(1) *Eucalyptus*-and-*Camphor* Snuff:

Eucalyptol	...	...	...	3j.
Camphor	...	...	...	3j.
Lycopodium	...	...	...	3j.

Mix.

(2) The titles "Strong Female Pills" and "Active Herbal Liver and Kidney Pills" are on the border-line by reason of the words "strong" and "active," which might be taken as a recommendation.

11/16. *J. P. I.*—*Preservative Powder*.—This consists of borax and boric acid in about equal proportions. The granulation is managed by placing the mixed powders in a damp cellar and then drying the moist powder and sifting.

40/6. *M. C.*—The *Stone-preservative* is a mixture of turpentine and linseed-oil. Greasy preparations are not generally admissible, the preference being usually given to such things as sodium-silicate solution or baryta water.

32/25. *Argon*.—*Hopogan*.—This is peroxide of magnesium, *not* zinc, as stated in this column on February 13.

37/41. *F. W. J.*—You will find all the information you require about qualification in dentistry in our last Educational Number, August 15, 1903.

44/9. *Phonograph*.—The *Erasive Liquid* for phonograph-records is disguised turpentine. Benzene is also used for the same purpose, and there are mechanical contrivances for smoothing the surface of a record for the purpose of using it again.

25/70. *G. A. F.*—*Butter-flavour*.—This is made by mixing butyric acid, butyric (artificial), and a trace of butyric ether and coumarin, with glycerin. We have not a working formula, but a few experiments will put you in the way of obtaining the right proportions. Cows' butter contains about 14 per cent. of the butyric glycerides. It is best to first bring about the combination of the glycerin with the butyric acid by heating and then add the other flavouring.

50/50. *Chemious*.—(1) We shall inquire. (2) Hydrocyanic acid is the quickest poison for a dog. Inject $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of Scheele's down the dog's throat when he is hungry. Chloroform is also effectual, but an air-tight box is necessary to hold the dog in. There should be a round hole in the side of the box near the bottom. Put cotton-wool through this, and saturate it with chloroform; then cork up the hole. (3) If an article is not the subject of letters patent, anyone may make and sell it, provided he infringes no common-law right of the original maker. The instances mentioned by you ("Quinine-and-Iron Mixture," &c.), are good examples of articles which are nobody's property.

43/62. *R. R. G.*—The *Manufacture of Briquettes* is comparatively simple when machinery such as is used for brick-making is employed. We gather that you require a hand-process. The formula will depend upon what other ingredients you can get cheaply to mix with the coal-dust as a binding-material. Wet clay (25) and coal-dust (75) is the simplest base for briquettes, but these are difficult to burn without a forced draught. To make the briquettes more combustible such substances as pitch, re-in, crude petroleum, and tar are used, and lime or chalk may take the place of clay. If you do not care to experiment on the lines, you should get Bjorling's "Briquettes and Briquette-machinery" (Rebman), which is the most modern book on the subject.

229/62. *Orphanage*.—*Liquid Soap*.—The simplest way of producing a soap like your sample is to make a jelly of hard or soft soap with boiling water, and then add methylated spirit to form a liquid. Perfume should be added with the spirit. Another method is to saponify a spirituous solution of resin with caustic alkali. Soap-boilers use a process in which cocoanut oil and oleic acid are saponified with potash lye and the resulting soap is dissolved in spirit.

37/43. *W. E. M.*—*Lanolin and Castor Oil*.—Mr. Henry Forster, of the Wolverhampton and Staffordshire General Hospital, informs us that the castor oil should be 2 oz. instead of 1 oz., the formula being—

Adipis lane (anhyd.)	...	...	3j.
Ol. ricini	...	...	3ij.
Aq. coloniensis	...	...	3ij.

He adds: "The anhydrous lanolin and castor oil may be rubbed together in a mortar, and when thoroughly mixed the spirit added gradually and mixed in the mortar. Or the first two ingredients may be melted together, and then poured into the spirit and well shaken."

58/37. *J. R. E.*—(1) The mercury-vapour electric lamps are not yet obtainable commercially. (2) We do not know the address of the schoolmaster whose dispute with a fire-insurance office you refer to. The matter was fully ventilated in "Truth" some two or three years ago.

Information Wanted.

61/60. Who are the makers of Vittoria liquorice?

67/20. Address of Hazelgrove & Nephews, bottle-cap makers.

65/60. Who are the makers of Lee's double-sublimed calomel?

65/51. Who are the makers of Cover's combination respirators?

91/19. Who are the makers of Gruber's ovoid aural bougies? If not proprietary, what is the formula?

OTTO OF ROSE.

At the meeting of the Society of Public Analysts on Wednesday, Messrs. F. Hudson-Cox and W. H. Simmons read a paper on "The Iodine-absorption as a Factor in the Examination of Otto of Rose." Since artificial otto has been brought to such a state of perfection its use as an adulterant of natural otto was almost certain to follow, particularly as the ordinary analytical data of the artificial otto approach very nearly the figures given by the genuine rose-otto. This is readily seen from the following analyses of the two brands of artificial otto now on the market:

	I.		II.	
	With Stearoptene	Without Stearoptene	With Stearoptene	Without Stearoptene
Sp. gr., 30–15.5°	0.8629	0.8717	0.8589	0.8658
Rotation, 100-mm. tube, at 30° C....	–0° 55'	–1° 20'	–0° 14'	–0° 52'
Saponification No.	25.5	13.4	3.8	5.7
Setting-point ...	22.5° C.	—	21.9° C.	—

Messrs. Hudson-Cox and Simmons have found that the iodine-absorption gives an easy means of detecting this as well as other common adulterants. Thus the iodine-absorption of genuine otto is found to range from 187 to 194; that of artificial from 221 to 254 for oils containing stearoptene, those without stearoptene absorbing 261 to 279. Palma-rosa oil gives 296 to 307, geraniol 239 and 307, geranium oils about 213, and guaiac-wood oil 298. Hübl's iodine-solution was employed in their experiments, 0.1 to 0.2 gram of the oil being left in contact with 25 c.c. of the solution for three hours. Though the absorption is not quite complete in that time, yet comparable results are obtained, and temperature plays no part in the reaction, the absorption being the same at 4° C. as at 27°.

Trade Report.

NOTICE TO BUYERS.—The prices given in this section are those obtained by importers or manufacturers for bulk quantities or original packages. To these prices various charges have to be added, whereby values are in many instances greatly augmented before wholesale dealers stock the goods. Qualities of drugs and oils vary greatly, and higher prices are commanded by selected qualities even in bulk quantities. It would be unreasonable for retail buyers to expect to get small quantities at anything like the prices here quoted.

42 Cannon Street, London, E.C. : March 3.

AT the ordinary drug-auctions held to-day a fair amount of business was done, the chief alterations being as follows: Cape aloes met a decline of about 2s. 6d. to 3s. 6d. per cwt. in consequence of the heavy supplies; and red Zanzibar, in skins, sold at firm prices. Sumatra benzoin is tending easier owing to large arrivals. Buchu sold at firm prices; and cardamoms showed a higher tendency, the supplies of the latter being on a greatly reduced scale. Elemi met with a slump, as there is now a large quantity on the market. Gamboge is still firmly held, and sales have been made privately. Guaiacum sold steadily; and most of the Jamaica honey offered, being in a fermented condition, sold cheaply. Rio ipecacuanha was in excellent demand, and prices were steady; Cartagena is very scarce, and was not offered. Kino and kola showed no alteration. High-dried rhubarb is dearer; and grey Jamaica sarsaparilla sold at firm prices. Restricted supplies of Tinnevely senna brought fully $\frac{1}{4}$ d. per lb. dearer rates. Beeswax of all descriptions showed no material alteration. Apart from the drug-auctions, the business tone has been quiet, alterations in value being of a minor character. Cod-liver oil is tending lower; ergot, carbolic acid, and Japanese peppermint oils are dearer. Quinine is "sick," and opium dull of sale. The following are the principal alterations of the week, including those recorded at the drug-auctions:

Higher	Firmer	Easier	Lower
Acid, carbolic	Cumin seed	Aniseed	Aloes (Cape)
Caraway-seed	Ergot	(Russ.)	Cinnamon
Golden seal		Oil, castor	Elemi
Oil, citronella,		Spermace'i	Ginger
(c.i.f.)			(Jap.)
Oil, palm			Nutmegs
Oil, pepper-			Oil, caraway
mint (Jap.)			Oil, cubeb
Rhubarb (high-			Oil, pimento
dried)			Wax, Japanese
Soda nitrate			(c.i.f.)

ACID, CARBOLIC.—The market continues strong, but the demand is not now so great as it was a fortnight ago. The recent higher range of prices has been brought about by the demand for the manufacture of explosives such as lyddite and melinite, of which picric acid manufactured from carbolic acid, is a constituent.

ACID, CITRIC, is a lifeless market at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb.

ACID TARTARIC.—Quiet at 1s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. for English, and 1s 0 $\frac{1}{4}$ d. for foreign.

AMMONIA SALTS.—*Carbonate* is quoted 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb., net, and powder 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. *Chloride*, chemically pure, 30s. to 31s. per cwt.; commercial 23s. for small crystals, and 28s. for large. *Sulphocyanide*, recrystallised, from 1s. to 1s. 2d. per lb., net.

ANISEED.—Russian is slow of sale at 19s. 6d. per cwt.

ANTIMONY.—The list price of *Crocus* has been advanced by makers 2s. per cwt. to 26s., and powdered to 29s. *Antim.*

nig. has advanced to 18s., and powder to 21s. per cwt. *Antim. tart.* is quoted 11d., and powder at 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb. Japanese crude is now held for 16l. per ton.

ARROWROOT.—Steady, in auction 94 barrels good manufacturing St. Vincent selling at 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.

CAMPHOR.—The market remains firm and unaltered, with perhaps a slackening off in the demand as compared with the large amount of business done last week. English refiners continue to quote from 4s. 3d. to 4s. 6d. per lb. for bells; but until the cheaper second-hand parcels due to favourable contracts have been absorbed, these prices are more or less nominal. In second-hands bells are quoted 4s., and flowers at 3s. 11d. Japanese is firm, and a large business was done at the close of last week at 3s. 6d. per lb., net; for March-April shipment 3s. 1d. to 3s. 2d., c.i.f., is quoted; but business with refiners is not entertained on these terms, as the principal consuming season will be over when the goods arrive. In the drug-auction 8 cases of English refined (1 oz blocks) (Salamon's) were limited at 4s. per lb., and for one case of Japanese refined (1-cz.) a bid of 3s. 4d. was refused, 3s. 6d. being wanted. Eleven cases of Chinese crude sold at 20s. per cwt.

CANARY-SEED is steady but quiet, at 62s. 6d. per quarter for Turkish and 67s. to 68s. for Mazagan. At the spice auction 60 bags Spanish offered, and 20 bags sold at 83s. 6d. per quarter.

CARAWAY-SEED.—Dutch is rather dearer at from 21s. 6d. to 22s. 6d. per cwt.

CASCARA SAGRADA.—The sailer *Invernesshire*, from San Francisco, has arrived with 639 sacks. Part of this shipment was offered in auction to-day, and 80s. was wanted for it; for prompt shipment from San Francisco, 77s., e.i.f., is quoted.

CHLORAL HYDRATE.—There is a steady demand, and in some quarters a further advance in price is talked of, as it is said the high cost of spirit warrants it.

CINNAMON.—The usual quarterly public sales were held last Monday. Although only 500 bales were catalogued, yet an exceptionally slow demand was experienced, and a reduction of 1d. per lb. on fine qualities and $\frac{1}{2}$ d. on ordinary and common had to be accepted in order to effect sales. Even then only 150 bales were disposed of, the following prices being realised: Fine superior—1s. 6d. per lb. for firsts, 1s. 4d. for seconds, and 1s. 3d. for thirds; good unworked—10d. for firsts, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. for seconds, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 8d. for thirds, and 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. to 6d. for fourths; fair unworked—8d. for seconds, and 7d. for thirds.

COCOA-BUTTER.—At the auction held at Amsterdam on March 1, 70 tons Van Houten's sold at from 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 66 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. (average price = 66c.), against 63 90c. paid at the previous auction, and 14 tons de Jong sold at 63 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 64c. At the London auction on Tuesday, 110 tons Cadbury's brand sold at from 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. per lb.

CORIANDER-SEED.—Firm and dearer, 15s. per cwt. being now asked for Morocco. In the drug-auction 60 bags of Russian sold at from 18s. to 19s. gross for net.

CUMIN-SEED is worth 27s. 6d. per cwt. for Morocco, and 28s. for ordinary Malta.

FENUGREEK-SEED.—There is little demand, and prices are unaltered at 9s. per cwt.

GALLS.—Business has been done in Chinese galls at 54s. per cwt., c.i.f., being firmer.

GAMBIER.—Small sales of fair *cubes* have been made at 36s. per cwt., spot.

GOLDEN SEAL.—Advices from the United States state that golden seal continues in light supply and firm, and any important demand would undoubtedly result in higher prices. This week the New York price is cabled over as 5s. per lb. Spot is dearer at 4s. 9d. to 5s. net.

IODIDES.—The advance of last week has induced a fair demand from the wholesale trade, principally for pot. ioidid. and iodoform, and the full Convention rates have been paid. There is very little Japanese pot. ioidid. now offered on the spot, and prices are almost on a level with those of British makes. Several rumours are going about as to the position

of iodine, and, while the opinion is advanced in one quarter that the rise was too great and may not be sustained, others draw quite opposite conclusions.

IODOLE.—In view of the advance in iodine this article may probably go higher; present price is from 37s. to 38s. per lb.

LINSEED is quiet and unaltered, at from 37s. 6d. to 45s. per quarter for good to fine clean.

OIL, COD-LIVER.—The London market is very dull this week, buyers holding off the market, and agents offering at cutting prices, ranging from 215s per barrel, c.i.f., upwards, for new Norwegian oil. Business has been done at 220s., c.i.f. Our Bergen correspondent writes on February 27 that the reports from Lofoten with regard to the fishing are still unsatisfactory, and only in some few places outside of the Lofotens can the fishing be said to be good. Although buyers generally continue to hold off the market, the tendency is perhaps a shade firmer at the last quotation of 210s. per barrel, f.o.b. Bergen, for finest new non-congealing oil. The exports from Bergen to date amount to 210 barrels, against 563 barrels at the corresponding period of last year.

OIL, WOOD.—For arrival sellers ask 27s. 3d. per cwt., c.i.f., being firmer.

OILS, ESSENTIAL.—The list price for English distilled *Caraway* oil has been reduced from 5s. 6d. to 5s. 3d. per lb. *Cubeb* oil is also 3d. per lb. lower, at 4s. 3d.; and *Pimento* oil is now offered at 10s. 6d. per lb., being 6d. lower. The market for American HGH is firmer since last week, a small speculative business having been done at from 14s. 3d. to 14s. 6d. per lb. spot, and the market for bulk oil continues firm at from 11s. 9d. to 12s., c.i.f. Dementholised Japanese oil is quoted by cable at 9s. 3d., c.i.f., but on the spot 6s. 6d. to 6s. 9d. has been paid, and some are quoting 7s. Star-anised oil is firm at 5s. 3d. per lb. on the spot, which price has been paid several times this week.

OLIBANUM.—Sellers of good pale drop ask from 47s. to 50s.; middling, 37s. 6d.; and ordinary, 30s. to 32s. 6d. per cwt.

OPIUM.—The London market remains very quiet, there being practically no demand. The stock of Persian on the spot is now very small, and holders are firm at from 12s. to 12s. 3d. per lb.

SMYRNA, February 19.—The sales this week amount to 54 cases of various qualities, at lower rates, for our usual run of manufacturing quality, but for good rich Yerli and Karahissar full prices had to be paid. The weather continues favourable for the growing crop and for the spring sowings, which are about to begin now. The arrivals in Smyrna to date amount now to 1,742 cases, against 4,828 cases at the same period of last year.

CONSTANTINOPLE, February 26.—The apparently favourable weather and momentary pressure in Smyrna have accentuated the decline, which in ordinary circumstances would have been more gradual. It appears to us as though the expected large yield has already been discounted, and the probabilities are that consumers will soon come round to the same opinion. The crop is by no means assured as yet, as dry weather during April and May can easily alter crop conditions. Putting this possibility aside, it must also be borne in mind that the weather has been too warm and unseasonable—a fact which must tell on the yield. Even if everything goes well henceforward, a crop of over 8,000 cases maximum appears to us quite out of question. The market is weak owing to the decline in Smyrna. The sales during the week amount to 10 cases Balukissar's, at 7s. 11d., and 2 cases drug-gists', at 7s. 8d. per lb., f.o.b. Constantinople.

QUININE.—The heavy bark-shipments from Java during February which were published in our last issue gave a depressed feeling to the second-hand market, and at the close of the week the tone was easier, with spot sellers at 11½d., March 11½d., and May 1s., for German sulphate in bulk. Practically nothing had been done up to to-day owing to the desire to wait the result of the Amsterdam bark auctions. Sellers on the spot ask 11½d.

The exports of quinine from Java from January 1 to December 31 were as follows:

Cases	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899
...	1,917	1,986	2,255	1,921	1,600

The landings in London during February amounted to 23,940 oz., and the deliveries to 91,984 oz., making the stock, on February 29, 3,248,656 oz. against 3,476,544 oz. in 1903.

SHELLAC.—A fair business has been done on the spot on the basis of 204s. to 205s. per cwt. for fair TN, and ordinary resinous at 192s. 6d. to 193s. Good and fine orange marks continue scarce and wanted, values being about from 225s. to 235s. AC Garnet is slow of sale both on the spot and for arrival. Spot is worth about 190s.

The landings of shellac during February exceed the deliveries by 3,774 cases, the stock of Orange showing an increase of 1,686 cases. Garnet has increased by 1,467 cases, and Button by 621 cases.

SODA NITRATE is firm and dearer, in view of the shrinkage in supplies. Refined on the spot is quoted 10s. 6d., and ordinary 10s. 3d. per cwt.

SPERMACEYL.—American refined is quoted 10½d. per lb., c.i.f.

SPICES.—At auction on Wednesday fair Penang *Pepper* was bought in at 6d. per lb., and privately Singapore for April-June shipment has been sold at 6d. Fine bold Singapore *White Pepper* was bought in at 1s., and superior at 1s. 3d., fair to good at 9½d. to 9¾d., good 10½d., and fine 10¾d. *Ginger* quiet, ordinary dark Jamaica (18) selling at 37s.; 25 bags Japanese sold, without reserve, at 23s. for limed. Washed rough Cochin was bought in at 27s. 6d. to 30s. per cwt. Fair Zanzibar *Chillies* were bought in at 55s., and good large red Japanese at 45s. *Nutmegs* lower, and *Mace* quiet. No Zanzibar *Cloves* were offered, and privately a fair speculative business has been done at fluctuating prices, including June-August delivery at 8d. per lb. The receipts in Zanzibar for the last half of February were 500 bales, making 1,300 bales for the month, against 11,000 bales last year. The total for the season now amounts to 29,000 bales, against 80,900 bales last year.

TURMERIC.—A fair business has been done privately in Cochin finger on the spot at 10s. per cwt., and small sales of good bright Rajapore have been made at 11s.

WAX, JAPANESE, is steady at 73s. 6d. per cwt., spot, but for arrival the market is lower at 61s., c.i.f., for March-April shipment.

London Drug-auctions.

The following table shows the quantity of goods offered and sold

	Offered	Sold		Offered	Sold
Aloes—			Galangal	40	0
Cape	88	88	Gamboge	19	0
Curaçao	7	2	Guaiacum	4	4
Socotrine	15	0	Gum acacia	90	3
Zanzibar	36	6	Honey—		
Ammoniacum	2	2	Californian	50	0
Annatto-seed	84	19	Honolulu	150	10
Antimony	30	0	Italian	4	4
Areca	34	0	Jamaica	236	102
Argol	1	1	New Zealand	86	0
Balsam—			Hydrocotyle	2	0
Canada	1	0	Ipecacuanha—		
Copaiba	22	9	Rio (Matto Grosso)	56	46
Peru	3	0	Jalap	3	0
Tolu	35	2	Kamala	2	0
Benzoin—			Kino	7	0
Palembang	39	10	Kola	14	0
Siam	5	1	Leptandra	1	1
Sumatra	139	28	Lime-juice	2	0
Buchu	20	6	Loofahs	10	0
Calumba	34	0	Mastich	10	*5
Camphor—			Menthol	23	0
crude	18	11	Musk—		
refined	22	0	pod (Tonq.)	2	0
Canella alba	7	0	Myrrh	8	0
Cardamoms	139	122	Oil—		
Cascarilla	161	0	anise, star	10	0
Cascarilla	28	0	camphor	23	0
Cassia fistula	24	5	castor	10	0
Chiretta	5	0	cedarwood	2	0
Cinchona	26	15	cinnamon-leaf	4	0
Coca-leaves (Ceylon)	24	24	citronella	1	0
Cocculus indicus	20	0	cod-liver (Jap.)	10	0
Colocyth	8	0	eucalyptus	15	0
Coriander-seed	60	60	lemongrass	20	0
Croton-seed	49	0	lime	2	2
Cubeb	71	0	nutmeg	4	0
Cuttle-fish bone	17	5	orange	6	0
Dragons-blood	22	1	patchouli	2	0
Elemi	59	28	peppermint	22	0
Ergot	15	0	rose (E.I.)	1	0

* Sold privately.

	Offered	Sold		Offered	Sold
Oil—			Senna—		
sassafras	5	0	Alex.	22	0
wintergreen	2	0	Tinnevely	70	28
Orange-peel	29	0	Sticklac	3	0
Orris	10	10	Strophanthus	7	0
Pepper, Cayenne	3	0	Tamarinds	130	0
Puree	3	0	Tonka-beans	17	0
Quassia-wood	42	42	Tragacanth	3	0
Quillaia	173	0	Turmeric	211	*22
Rhubarb	53	35	Wax (bees')—		
English	8	8	Australian	1	1
Rose petals	1	0	Borneo	3	0
Sarsaparilla—			Chilian	9	0
grey Jamaica ...	10	10	Chinese	10	0
Honduras	8	0	East Indian	149	8
Lima Jamaica ...	28	0	Jamaica	44	9
native Jam.	19	2	Morocco	50	0
Seedlac	22	0	Zanzibar	37	0
Senega	13	6	Wax, vegetable		
Squill	16	0	(Jap.)	25	0

* Sold privately.

ALOE.—The large supply of Cape offered met with an excellent demand, mostly for the Continent, at a decline of about 2s. 6d. to 3s. per cwt., fair to good bright hard selling at from 31s. 6d. to 33s., slightly dull and drossy 30s. to 31s., and very dull and drossy 26s. 6d. to 29s. per cwt. Six packages of Zanzibar, with a fairly large proportion of skin, sold at 60s. for good hard red. Privately, there has been a good demand for Socotrine aloes, and some 40 kegs have left the warehouses this week. Of Curaçao, 7 boxes were shown, and 2 sold at 22s. per cwt. for fair liver.

AMMONIACUM.—Two cases of dark almondy block sold at 21s. per cwt.

ANNATTO SEED.—Fair to good bright from Ceylon and Madras sold at from 3½d. to 3¾d. per lb.

BALSAM, CANADA.—Good bright was limited at 2s. per lb., no allowances or discount.

BALSAM, COPAIBA.—Two kegs of bright thin pale Para sold at 1s. 4d., and a few kegs from another catalogue, containing 75 per cent. essential oil, had been sold at 1s. 6d. Five packages of cloudy Maranham were limited at 1s. 7½d., and 5 cases of cloudy Central American were sold at 1s. 3d. per lb.

BALSAM, TOLU.—A new arrival of 2 cases of drossy to slightly drossy and reddish, in large tins, sold at 9d. per lb. Good hard, in large tins, was limited at 11d.

BENZOIN.—Quiet in auction and perhaps a shade easier. Good almondy Sumatra seconds sold at 7d. per cwt. to the extent of 13 cases, and 5 cases of ordinary false-packed seconds brought 5l. 5s. A case of fine Siam consisting of small to bold loose well-flavoured almonds sold with keen competition at 21l. 10s. per cwt., and another case of Siam was held at 28l. During the past fortnight over 300 packages of Sumatra and Palembang gum have arrived. Ten cases common barky Palembang sold, without reserve, at 13s. per cwt.

BUCHU.—Very firmly held at 8½d. per lb. for fair greenish round leaf, at which sales were made in auction; for slightly stalky 8d. was paid.

CALUMBA.—Good small to bold washed yellowish sorts were bought in at 21s. per cwt.

CARDAMOMS.—The supplies offered were on a much reduced scale, and in consequence prices generally were firm to 1d. dearer. Ceylon-Mysore sold at 2s. 6d. for extra-bold pale long unclipped; good bold pale, 1s. 10d. to 1s. 11d.; bold pale long, 1s. 6d. to 1s. 9d.; bold medium pale, 1s. 2d. to 1s. 3d.; small and medium pale, 1s. 1d. to 1s. 2d.; peas, 8½d. to 9d.; brown split and pickings, 8½d. *Splits:* bold split, 2s. 1d.; good medium pale split, 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d.; small pale, 10d. to 10½d. Decorticated seed sold at from 11d. to 1s. per lb.

The annual report of the Rangala Planters' Association, of Ceylon, states that the cardamom-crop for the past year has been the largest on record, 909,418 lbs. having been shipped, which is nearly 50 per cent. over the previous year. The stock in stores is considerably less than at the same time last year, and it is not likely that more than 720,000 lbs. will be shipped this season. The Cardamom Committee's good work is beginning to tell on the exports to new markets. In moving the adoption of the above report at the annual meeting, Mr. Sinclair said that last year's exports would never be exceeded, as prices had fallen to

such a low level that cardamoms no longer pay to cultivate. In giving a few details of the work done by the Cardamom Committee, Mr. Sinclair said they had been successful in their efforts to find new markets for this product, as they would see by the export returns.

CASSIA FISTULA partly sold at 30s. for fair lean W.I. pod.

CINCHONA.—Fourteen bales of yellow bark sold 1s. 2d. per lb. for cultivated Calisaya, and a bale of quill Calisaya brought 3d. *Red* bark was taken out at 1s. The N. V. Nederlandsche Veem at Amsterdam reports the shipments from Java to Europe during February, 1904, as follows:

	Amsterdam		Amsterdam
Year	Lbs.	Year	Lbs.
1904	1,062,000	1898	700,000
1903	661,000	1897	455,000
1902	524,000	1896	546,000
1901	748,000	1895	759,000
1900	641,000	1894	458,000
1899	539,000	1893	355,000

Total Shipments January-February.

Year	Amsterdam	Year	Amsterdam
	Lbs.		Lbs.
1904	1,917,000	1893	1,656,000
1903	1,254,000	1897	846,000
1902	1,454,000	1896	1,516,000
1901	1,748,000	1895	1,413,000
1900	1,256,000	1894	1,351,000
1899	1,018,800	1893	1,255,000

COCA-LEAVES.—Fair greenish Ceylon sold at from 10d. to 10½d., and medium brownish at 9d. per lb.

CUTTLE-FISH BONE.—Fair white bone sold without reserve at 2¾d., and a case at 1½d. per lb., no allowances or discount.

DRAGON'S BLOOD.—A case of dull lump sold at 5l. 15s. per cwt.

ELEMI.—A substantial decline was accepted in order to effect business, 18 cases selling at from 25s. to 26s. 6d. per cwt. for fair white Manila gum *via* Singapore.

ERGOT.—Privately the market is firmer, holders now asking 1s. 7d. per lb. on the spot for Spanish, and for shipment 1s. 6½d. to 1s. 7d. c.i.f., is quoted. There has been a good demand, and Hamburg dealers have been buying both Russian and Spanish. It is said the Russian Government have prohibited the export of ergot, but the grounds for such a report are very slender.

GAMBOGE.—Firmly held at 15l. per cwt. for good bright Siam pipe, partly blocky. Privately business has been done in pickings at 13l. 10s. per cwt.

GUAIACUM.—Four packages of fair glassy black, slightly drossy, sold at from 10d. to 10½d. per lb., "without reserve," being steady.

GUM ARABIC.—Three cases of yellowish ambery picked Trieste grain sold at 80s.

HONEY.—Over 100 barrels of Jamaica, of unsorted colours, partly liquid, and all more or less fermented, were sold at 16s. per cwt. Fair white set Jamaica, in cases, sold at 24s.; and brown set 20s. The s.s. *Inverness-shire*, at San Francisco, has arrived with 300 cases.

IPECACUANHA.—Rio (Matto Grosso) was practically the only description offered, and it met with an excellent demand at steady prices. Fifty-two bales, mostly imported in 1901 and 1902, all sold at from 4s. 4d. to 4s. 6d. per lb. for ordinary lean and dull to fair; two bales of good bright natural brought 4s. 7d. to 4s. 8d., and a bale of dull grey 4s. 3d. The quality, taken altogether, was only medium. Privately there has been a good demand for ipecac., and the deliveries of all descriptions during February amounted to 135 bales, mostly Rio. 4s. 7d. per lb. has been paid privately for Cartagena, and 4s. 8d. is now wanted.

KINO.—Good Cochin grain was held at 6d. per lb.

KOLA.—Seven bags African were limited at 3¾d. per lb., and for fair bright washed W.I. 7d. per lb. was wanted.

MENTHOL.—In auction 4 cases *Suzuki* brand were held at 19s. per lb., 5 cases *Yazawa* at 18s., and 5 cases *Kobayashi* at 18s. 6d. per lb. Privately the market has been quieter, but firm 18s. 6d. spot have been freely paid for *Kobayashi* and 18s. for *Yazawa*.

MUSK.—For thin-skin blue Tonquin pod, few brown, 55s. per oz. was wanted.

OILS, ESSENTIAL.—Twenty cases of *Lemongrass* oil were held at 8½d. per oz., 5 cases *Sassafras* oil at 2s. 4d., and 2 cases *Cedarwood* oil at 11½d. per lb. net. Japanese *Camphor* oil was taken out at 70s., and Chinese at 65s. per cwt. Two cases West Indian distilled *Lime* oil sold at 1s. 6d., 4 cases of *Nutmeg* oil were offered at 2d. per oz., 2 cases of D. & O. oil of *Wintergreen* at 7s. 6d. per lb., and 4 cases *Cinnamon* oil at 3½d. per oz. Two cases of *Fisher's Patchouli* oil were held for 1s. 6d. per oz. A bid of 11d. per lb. is to be submitted for 10 cases of *Eucalyptus* oil containing 62 to 63 per cent. of cineol.

ORANGE-PEEL.—New crop Maltese strip of good colour was held at 10d. per lb., at which sales have been made.

ORRIS.—Ten bags of small and medium lean rough sold at 9s. 6d. per cwt.

QUASSIA.—Forty-two bags of wood sold without reserve at 7l. 12s. 6d. per ton.

QUILLAIA.—A parcel of 173 bales was taken out at 21s. per cwt.

RHUBARB.—High-dried is 1d. per lb. dearer, 3 cases having been sold previous to the auction at 1s. 1d. for good medium flat, fair cut, with three-quarters pinky fracture, one-quarter grey and dark. A case of round and flat Shensi pickings sold at 1s. 2d., and 2 cases of Canton pickings sold at 11d. per lb. for half good break. Common to bold flat Canton, with three-quarters good pinky fracture, sold at 1s. 2d., subject; ditto with half pinky fracture half grey and dark, 1s. 1d. per lb. Eight bags of English sold "without reserve" at 4½d. per lb., gross for net—no allowances or discount. Four cases sold, without reserve, at 10½d. per lb. for common Canton and Shensi, mixed and all slightly wormy.

SARSAPARILLA.—Grey Jamaica sold at firm prices, 1s. 1d. per lb. being paid for a bale of fine; slightly sea-damaged at 1s., and from 7d. to 9d. for badly sea-damaged. Lima-Jamaica was held at from 10d. to 11d., and private sales have been made at the higher figure. Two bales of good red Native-Jamaica sold at 10d., and a further 17 bales, which have been previously offered, were again bought in, there being no demand. Crown Honduras was obtainable at 1s., a bid of 11d. being refused.

SENEGA.—Six bales sold at 2s. 11d. per lb. net for very dark, and fair was bought in at 3s. 3d.

SENNA.—In very small supply and fully ¼d. per lb. dearer for Tinnevely. Medium brown yellowish leaf sold at from 1½d. to 2d., and pods at from 1½d. to 2d. Good medium greenish was bought in at 6d. per lb. Alexandrian siftings were held at 2½d., and pale pods at 6½d. per lb.

WAX, BEES'.—Flat. The bulk of the Jamaica offered was not prime, consequently there was no demand for it. The best lots, consisting of fair red and brown mixed, brought 7l. 5s., and dark brown sold at 6l. 10s. For dark Zanzibar 6l. 17s. 6d. was wanted, and 6l. 12s. 6d. for greyish pipe. A case of Australian sold at 7l. 2s. 6d. per cwt. Good unbleached yellow Calcutta sold at from 6l. 5s. to 6l. 7s. 6d.

Cablegrams.

SMYRNA, March 8:—The sales of opium for the week ending Wednesday amount to 150 cases. The market has been excited, and prices are firmer.

HAMBURG, March 3:—Golden seal is very firm at 1 050m. per 100 kilos. American HGH oil of peppermint is firm at 14½m. per lb., and Kobayashi dementholised peppermint oil at 15½m. per kilo. Oil of star aniseed is dearer at 11m. per kilo.

NEW YORK, March 3:—Business here is fair. Opium remains easy at \$2 87 per lb. Refined camphor has advanced to 90c., menthol to \$6 00, carbolic acid to 14c., cantharides to 75c., and resublimed iodine to \$3 15 per lb. Golden seal is perhaps a shade easier at \$1 20 per lb. Ergot is now quoted 36c. per lb., and peppermint oil is advancing, \$2.75 per lb. being asked for bulk oil.

BERGEN, March 2:—The total catch of cod for the whole of Norway (including the winter fishing) now amounts to

5,048,000. This has yielded 2,194 barrels of steam-refined oil. Comparing these figures with the same date of 1903, we find that the catch was 625,000 only, and the yield 516 barrels of oil; and in 1902, at the same date, the catch was 5,627,000, yielding 3,674 barrels of oil. The fishing is making very small progress, and in consequence the market is apparently firmer, finest new non-congealing medicinal oil being quoted at 210s. per barrel, f.o.b. Bergen.

AMSTERDAM, March 3:—At the auctions of cinchona held here to-day 8,345 packages were offered (against 11,597 packages offered at the previous auction), weighing 754,558 kilos., and containing 35,713 kilos. quinine sulphate. Of the above quantity, 7,975 packages were sold at an average unit of 6 60c. per half-kilo., as compared with 6 25c. per half-kilo. paid at the auction on January 28. The following were the approximate quantities of quinine purchased by the principal buyers: The English and American factories, 11,454 kilos.; the Brunswick factory, 3,451 kilos.; the Mannheim and Amsterdam factories, 4,405 kilos.; the Frankfort-on-Main and Stuttgart factories, 4,225 kilos.; and various buyers, 10,602 kilos. The prices paid for the manufacturing-bark ranged from 3c. to 71½c. per half-kilo., and for druggists' bark from 6½c. to 58c. per half-kilo.

Heavy Chemicals.

For the season of the year there is a fairly satisfactory demand in the heavy-chemical market at all the principal centres. Miscellaneous inquiries for home-trade requirements are on the whole good, and deliveries against existing contracts are being taken out well. There is an increase in demand for export, and moderate orders have been booked for forward delivery. As regards values, there is little to report, as fluctuations from recent figures are few, and no important changes seem imminent.

SULPHATE OF AMMONIA remains nominally unchanged. Tone is a quiet one, but, if anything, perhaps a shade firmer than it was.

ALKALI-PRODUCE.—Bleaching-powder continues in fair request, both for home and export, at from 4l. to 4l. 10s. per ton. Caustic soda is in improved demand, but values show no alteration: 76 to 77 per cent., 10l. 10s. to 10l. 12s. 6d. per ton; 70 per cent., 9l. 15s. to 9l. 17s. 6d. per ton; and 60 per cent., 8l. 15s. to 8l. 17s. 6d. per ton. Ammonia alkali steadily maintains its strong position at unaltered values of 4l. 10s. to 4l. 15s. per ton, free on rails at works. Soda crystals in steady demand at from 55s. to 62s. 6d. per ton, f.o.b. Tyne; f.o.b. Liverpool, 67s. 6d. per ton. Bicarbonate of soda, 6l. 5s. to 6l. 10s. per ton, f.o.b. Liverpool, in large casks, and 6l. 12s. 6d. to 6l. 17s. 6d. per ton in 1-cwt kegs. Salt-cake steadily maintains its late improved tone, and with good demand is firm at 30s. to 32s. 6d. per ton in bulk, free on rails. Chlorates of potash and soda continue quiet at unchanged figure of 2½d. per lb. Yellow prussiates of potash and soda in better request; potash 5½d. to 5½d. per lb., and soda 3½d. to 4d. per lb. Glauber's salts steady at 32s. 6d. to 35s. per ton in bags, free on rails. Hyposulphite of soda is in good all-round demand, and values are fully maintained, although supply is now somewhat better: 6-8 cwt. casks, 5l. 2s. 6d. to 5l. 12s. 6d. per ton; 1-cwt. kegs, 5l. 17s. 6d. to 7l. per ton, in accordance with quality and quantity. Silicates of soda continue to move well, and otherwise are without change: 140° Tw., 4l. 2s. 6d. to 4l. 12s. 6d. per ton; 100° Tw., 3l. 12s. 6d. to 4l. 2s. 6d. per ton; and 75° Tw., 3l. 5s. to 3l. 15s. per ton, f.o.b. Liverpool or Tyne, in usual casks, and according to quality, quantity, and market.

German Drug-market.

Hamburg, March 1.

Business is improving, and several articles show a fair demand. ANTIMONY is very firm. China is not offered at present; present price is 28m. per 100 kilos.

CAMPHOR (REFINED) is very firm, and 800m. per 100 kilos. has been paid.

CONDURANGO is quoted 70m. per 100 kilos.

ERGOT is tending firmer. Russian is quoted 310m. per 100 kilos. GOLDEN-SEAL is still advancing; 10½m. per kilo. is asked.

LYCOPodium is stronger at 560m. per 100 kilos.

MENTHOL is very firm; spot is quoted 42½m. and forward delivery 40m. per kilo.

QUININE is unchanged at 33m. per kilo.

SENEGA is quieter, Western being quoted 720m. per 100 kilos.

WAX (JAPANESE) is quieter, and for forward delivery 138m. per 100 kilos. is quoted.

WORMSEED is firm and scarce at from 108m. to 110m. per 100 kilos.

THE death is reported of Mr. J. T. Prest. Formerly one of the senior partners of Messrs. Hodgkinson, Prestons & King, and father of Mr. J. Classon Preston.

Preliminary Report Respecting Melting-point Determinations.*

By LEONARD DOBBIN, Ph.D.

THE melting-point being one of the important physical constants of a large number of pure solid substances, the compilers of the various Pharmacopœias have been careful to include the melting-points amongst the characteristics of a number of definite organic compounds which are solid at ordinary temperatures, and melt, without decomposition, when heated to a sufficiently high temperature.

The general method by which melting-point determinations are carried out is familiar to everyone who has worked at practical organic chemistry in a modern laboratory, but the details of the procedure in heating the substance and of the mode of noting the moment of liquefaction, as employed in the different laboratories or described in the different textbooks, present a number of variations. Some observers who have critically examined the various modifications of the general method have found that there are slight differences in the ascertained melting-point of the same substance, depending upon the particular procedure which has been adopted in applying the method. The conclusion to be drawn from these results is that it is practically impossible to ascertain with certainty what is the true melting-point of a substance by the aid of any modification of this general method.

A method of melting-point determination which is now employed in some cases, and which, as nearly as possible, appears to constitute a theoretically satisfactory mode, consists in introducing a tube containing some 15 to 20 grams of the substance to be experimented upon into a thermostat which has been heated previously to a temperature one or two degrees above the melting-point of the substance (as already approximately ascertained by means of a preliminary experiment on a small quantity), and which is maintained at that temperature during the experiment. The substance is stirred throughout the whole period occupied by its liquefaction by means of a thermometer on which the temperature is read at frequent intervals. So long as there is present in the tube an intimate mixture of the substance in the liquid state with a quantity of the unmelted solid, the temperature, as indicated by the thermometer, is found to remain constant; and this temperature (which frequently remains constant for a period of several minutes' duration) may be regarded as the true melting-point of the substance, just as the temperature of an intimate mixture of ice and water which is kept constantly stirred is the true melting-point of ice. As a considerable quantity of the substance is necessary, however, in order to carry out this method satisfactorily, it cannot be regarded as suitable for general use.

While it is thus impracticable in the case of many substances to ascertain the exact melting-points without employing quantities of the substances which would be wholly out of the question, it is obviously desirable to secure the highest possible degree of uniformity in the method employed in fixing the official melting-points of those substances for which the British Pharmacopœia requires a definite melting-point, and in determining the melting-points of commercial specimens of the substances themselves. At the same time, it is important that the apparatus and the manipulation should be as simple as possible.

With regard to the official instructions for the determination of melting-points (as contained in the second paragraph

on page 436 of the British Pharmacopœia, 1898), while the description of the manipulation may be looked upon as satisfactory, there is justification for the criticism that the due preparation of the substance to be operated upon, by thoroughly drying it prior to testing it, should be described in these instructions. The preliminary operations described in the Pharmacopœia of first melting the undried substance and then cooling it again until it solidifies (followed by remelting the substance and recording as the melting-point the temperature at which liquefaction occurs for the second time) do not in any satisfactory manner take the place of thoroughly drying the substance in the first instance.

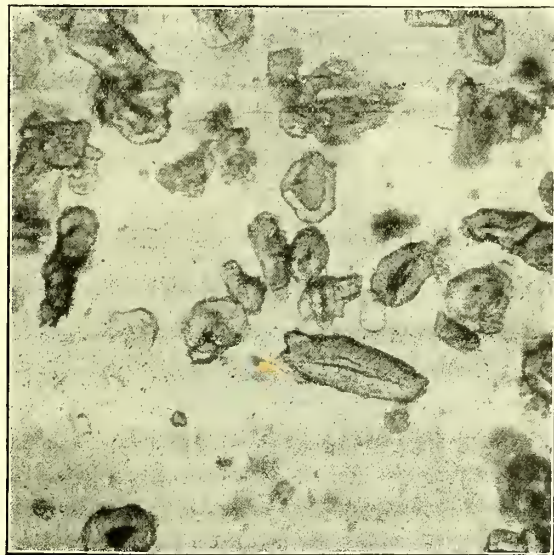
Further, the official instructions respecting the application of a correction to the observed melting-point, on account of the fact that the whole mercury-column in the stem of the thermometer does not possess the same temperature as the mercury in the bulb, appear to indicate a straining after a high degree of precision which neither the requirements of the case nor the other known deficiencies of the method altogether warrant. Omitting any reference to this correction, it might probably suffice, for all practical purposes, to require that the Centigrade thermometer to be employed for the determination of melting-points shall be of a certain specified length between the points marked 0° and 300° respectively; that it shall be immersed to a specified depth in the hot liquid when a melting-point determination is being made; and that, prior to its being used, it shall have been compared with a standard thermometer and provided with a table of corrections.

The official method should, of course, be employed in determining the official melting-points.

Powdered Gentian.

By H. S. COLLINS.

DURING the last six months I have met with several samples of powdered gentian-root, mostly imported, which I have found to be grossly adulterated. Since there appears to be a large quantity of these powders in the



MICROSCOPIC VIEW OF DEPOSIT (Powdered Almond-shell).

market at the present time, I have thought it desirable to bring the fact under the notice of pharmacists.

The appearance and aroma of the powders are all that

* Drawn up for the Pharmacopœia Committee of the General Medical Council, and sent for publication by request of that committee.

could be desired, and the amount of ash yielded on ignition in most cases gives no ground for suspicion. A microscopic examination, however, at once reveals the presence of an adulterant, an approximate separation of which is readily effected by elutriation.

On shaking the adulterated powder with water in a test-tube, and allowing to stand two or three minutes, a portion heavier than the remainder rapidly separates. The supernatant liquid is poured off, and the sediment again washed as before. Both portions are examined under the microscope, and it is found that the deposit consists entirely of powdered almond-shell. The adulterant is of a bright brown colour, admirably adapted to the purpose for which it is used, and it certainly tends to give the powder a more attractive appearance.

Three samples from totally different sources were adulterated in this manner, although all were guaranteed genuine; and in one case the guarantee was accompanied with the additional assurance, "free from olive-stones." A fourth lot had also had added to it a large percentage of powdered pinewood, colored to resemble gentian. The difficulty in the last case was not to discover the adulterant, but the drug: a 70-per-cent. alcohol was used in this case to effect a separation. This powder also contained much silicious matter, which accounted for a high percentage of ash. A fifth sample also contained powdered woody tissue, but I was unable to recognise its source.

The following are the percentages of ash yielded by powdered gentian, powdered almond-shell, and the adulterated samples:

Powdered gentian ...	...	...	2.5 to 5 per cent. ash
Powdered almond-shell (two samples) ...	...	...	3.1 and 3.25 per cent.
Sample No. 1 ...	...	...	4.05 per cent.
Sample No. 2 ...	...	...	5.65 per cent.
Sample No. 3 ...	...	...	3.65 per cent.
Sample No. 4 ...	...	...	9.0 per cent.
Sample No. 5 ...	...	...	not determined

In samples Nos. 1, 2, and 3 the adulterant was powdered almond-shell, and 4 and 5 pinewood and woody tissue respectively, in addition to almond-shell.

The present may serve as a suitable occasion for drawing attention to the fact that a determination of ash alone is practically powerless to deal with such cases of adulteration, but a microscopical examination affords a ready and reliable means of determining the genuineness or otherwise of powdered drugs. The reproduced photograph (about $\times 120$) of the deposit, although of only a few isolated cells, is fairly typical.

The grain of wheat starch in the centre must be looked upon rather as an accidental impurity than an intentional adulteration, as very little occurred in the sample.

Davy Hill & Co.'s Analytical Laboratory, Southwark, S.E.

Deaths.

CADBY.—On February 25, Mr. Samuel Kittle Cadby, chemist and druggist, for many years in business at 60 High Street, Margate.

GIBBS.—At 1 Royal Crescent, Weymouth, on February 22, Mr. Christopher J. Gibbs, chemist and druggist, aged thirty-seven. Mr. Gibbs was found dead in his armchair, and a bottle of Scheele's prussic acid by his side. At the inquest it was stated that he had been depressed for some time, owing to financial difficulties, and a verdict of suicide while temporarily insane was returned.

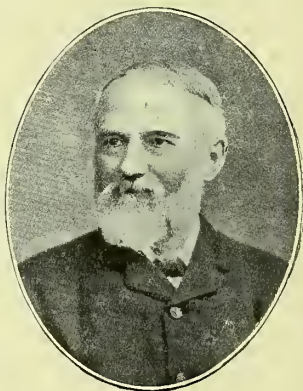
JONES.—At Mold, Flintshire, on February 25, Mr. William Janion Jones, chemist and druggist, aged eighty-seven.

PATEY.—On February 23, at 19 Manor Gardens, Holway, N., Mr. William Patey, of William Patey & Co., wholesale perfumers, formerly of 37 Lombard Street, E.C., and late of 49 Scrutton Street, E.C., aged seventy-six.

THOMAS.—The death occurred on February 24 of Mr. William Thomas, chemist and druggist, Bayswater and Islington, who some twenty years ago introduced into London the cutting methods which up till then had been confined chiefly to Bristol and Nottingham. After his appren-

ticeship Mr. Thomas came to London as an assistant to Messrs. Godfrey & Cooke, and while with them passed the Minor examination in 1874. He then started in business in Chester, where his health broke down, and he went to Australia, getting a situation with Messrs. Faulding & Co., of Adelaide. He returned to London in 1878, and bought the business in Talbot Road, Bayswater, which had been carried on for twelve years by Mr. Haynes, and was doing 700% a year when Mr. Thomas bought it. By cutting methods and a "Medical Companion and Price-list" he in the course of a few years took the returns up to 6,000%, and his branch establishment in Islington had in 1885 a turnover of 4,000%, having risen to that in the course of two years from 3% a week. The "Paddington Indicator" says Mr. W. Thomas "was a gentleman of charming personality. A Welshman by birth, Mr. Thomas possessed remarkable energy and intelligence, and those genial qualities which frequently characterise his fellow countrymen."

FELTON.—At Esplanade Hotel, St. Kilda, Vic., on January 8, Mr. Alfred Felton, of Messrs. Felton, Grimwade & Co., wholesale druggists, Melbourne, aged seventy-three. Mr. Felton was a native of Maldon, Essex. He served his apprenticeship in this country, and afterwards acted as an assistant until his majority was passed, when, in 1853, he went out to Victoria. He started business in Collins Street, Melbourne, afterwards removing to Swanston Street, where he remained until 1866, when he entered into partnership with Mr. F. S. Grimwade, as wholesale druggists, and took over the business of Youngman Brothers, which they conducted under the style of Messrs. Felton, Grimwade & Co. Mr. Felton was also at one time a member of the firm of Cuming, Smith & Co., and was part proprietor of the Melbourne Glass-bottle Works. He was joint owner of several grazing stations, and his interest in properties extended to South Australia, New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand. He was a connoisseur in art and literature, and his rooms at the Esplanade—where, as a bachelor, he had lived for a number of years—contained valuable paintings and many gems of literature. Mr. Felton was an ex-Vice-President and a life governor of the Old Colonists' Association, and its noblest benefactor, he having built four cottages, at a cost of 1,100%, and given 2,200% for the endowment of them. Beyond that, he from time to time made very liberal donations to the Association. He was a wealthy man, his estate being valued at over half a million. He had been in poor health for some time. The funeral took place on January 10, and was very largely attended. Leaving the Esplanade Hotel, St. Kilda, the *cortège*, which consisted of about fifty carriages, proceeded to the local cemetery. The pallbearers were Colonel Campbell, Messrs. Cuming (Cuming, Smith & Co.), E. Cowley, S. Frupp, Calder (Couche, Calder & Co.), A. W. Brazier, H. Francis, and J. Watson. Mr. F. S. Grimwade, M.L.S., the deceased's partner, and his sons were the chief mourners, and the body was interred in the vault belonging to deceased and Mr. Grimwade. Our portrait of Mr. Felton is reproduced from one in the "Australasian Journal of Pharmacy," which says: "While the genial personality of Mr. Felton will be sorely missed by the many who were privileged to enjoy his friendship, his munificent bequests will long keep his memory green with those who hold in respect a large-hearted benevolence and public spirit."



"We admire and like the C. & D. We really enjoy its editorials, its contributions—in fact, enjoy it from first to last. We wish the C. & D. every success. May your light never cease to shine!" So write a subscribing firm in India (213/30).

South African News.

(From our own Correspondents.)

Note.—THE CHEMIST AND DRUGGIST is regularly supplied by order to all the members of all the Pharmaceutical Societies in British South Africa, viz.:

SOUTH AFRICAN PHARMACEUTICAL ASSOCIATION.
PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF CAPE COLONY.
NATAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.
TRANSVAAL PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.
RHODESIA PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY.
NORTHERN DISTRICT CHEMISTS' ASSOCIATION.
PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF ORANGE RIVER COLONY.

Cape Colony.

DR. C. F. K. MURRAY, who is Government nominee on the Colonial Pharmacy Board, has been elected President of the Colonial Medical Council.

MR. JAMES CHARLES WATERMEYER, late of the Government Analytical Department, Cape Colony, has been killed outside Windhoek, German Damaraland, by natives in rebellion. Mr. Watermeyer left the Cape Government some two years ago to undertake analytical agricultural work for the German Government, and the news of his death has been received with regret by all who knew him. He was forty-one years of age.

TENDERS FOR GOVERNMENT STORES.—The Board of Trade have received particulars of tenders which have been invited by the Cape Government for the supply of certain specified articles (including various kinds of provisions, candles, matches, soap, tea, sugar, tobacco, &c.) for the use of gaols, lock-ups, hospitals, &c., in the Colony for a period of one year. Tenders will be received up to noon on Friday, April 1 next. Conditions of tender may be seen on application at the Commercial Intelligence Branch of the Board of Trade.

Natal.

MESSRS. W. R. PIMM & CO., chemists, Field Street, Durban, have had a narrow escape of being burnt out. Smoke was discovered issuing from the front store, and the services of the fire-brigade were quickly sought, and obtained, fortunately, before much damage was done.

THE "Natal Government Gazette" has now published the full particulars of the trade of Natal during 1903 a reference to which appeared in our last issue. Drugs and chemicals imported amounted in value to 185,000*l.*, against 169,000*l.* for the corresponding period of 1902. Oilmen's stores show a decrease of 7,000*l.*, the imports being valued at 237,000*l.*; soap and candles also decreased by 8,000*l.*, being 135,000*l.*

In the half-yearly report of the Durban borough analyst it was stated that out of twenty samples of milk fourteen were of good quality, and six out of nine samples of butter were genuine. Of vinegar (ten samples), six were of proper strength, two were adulterated with water, and two sold as malt-vinegar were found to be acetic acid coloured with caramel. Coffee was found to contain only 30 per cent., whilst a new adulterant was discovered in the shape of sulphate of iron, added, presumably, to make the decoction look stronger.

Rhodesia.

CHEERFUL UNDER ADVERSITY.—With all the clouds of depression generally prevailing in South Africa at present (writes a Bulawayo chemist), we manage always to turn up smiling—an attribute which is indigenous to Rhodesia, notwithstanding that it has had to pass through quite as many plagues as the Egyptians of old.

GOOD SHOTS.—Most South African chemists know how to handle a gun, although opportunities for practice are not now so frequent. At the Bulawayo rifle-range recently, when the competition took place for the first and second class Government monthly medals, pharmacy was well represented. Mr. Phelps (Smart & Copley) won the silver medal with a score of 94, against 97 points obtained by the winner of the gold medal. Mr. Burnett (Smart & Copley)

scored 86, and Mr. Skerrett (Lennon, Limited) put his total at 82.

HELPING OTHERS.—The inhabitants of Bulawayo are rendering substantial aid to two needy and deserving causes—the Bloemfontein Disaster Relief Fund and the Memorial Hospital. By the purchase of tickets for the performances of the Bulawayo Musical and Dramatic Society a three-figure sum has already been subscribed to each fund. Mr. W. Dawn Copley (Smart & Copley) is chairman of the committee of the Society, and the daintily designed programme for the performances on February 5 and 6 fills the *C. & D.* editorial offices with sweet perfume, which comes from the programmes that were scented by Messrs. Smart & Copley.

CRICKET is not forgotten in this quarter of the world (writes our Bulawayo correspondent), and you will be interested to hear of a cricket-match which took place on January 30 between eleven of the staff of Messrs. Smart & Copley and a team put on the field by Messrs. Haddon & Sly, the universal providers. Pills gave pickles "beans," or, rather, took the "biscuit" from the grocers, although many of the chemists' team had had no practice at the game for years, except a little batting in the backyard the previous week. This friendly game led to the resuscitation of an ancient local wheeze: "Why was Copley smart? Because Haddon was sly." The scores were: Smart & Copley, first innings, 38; second innings, 47. Haddon & Sly, first innings, 22; second innings, 50. The best scores for the winners were, in the first innings—Blewett 10, Smart 8; second innings—Berger 13, Smart 8, and Blewett 8. For the losers: First innings—Scanlen (not out) 6, Drummond 5; second innings—Abernethy 13 and Green 11. Bowling-honours fell to Griffiths and Craig.

Transvaal.

BUSINESS remains frightfully slack in the Transvaal, owing to the great depression caused by the native labour trouble.

MESSRS. O. ROHRSEN & CO. have opened their new pharmacy at the corner of Juta and Melle Streets, Braamfontein.

THERE are numerous alterations in prices in Lennon's new list for 1904. A great number of the patent medicines have been reduced, while a few have been advanced.

MR. L. GERSCHUNY, late partner in the firm of Messrs. Gerschuny & Miller, Doornfontein, has opened a wholesale business in Market Street, Johannesburg.

CUSTOMS DECISION.—The Transvaal Customs Department have notified that cattle, sheep, horse, and poultry medicines, as well as dips (item 133 of the tariff), may be imported free of duty.

Pharmaceutical Society of Rhodesia.



A GENERAL MEETING of this Society was held at Messrs. Lennon's office, Bulawayo, on January 26. There were present Messrs. Copley (President), Truscott, Hole, Smart, Skerrett, Wilkins, Meredith, Barnett, Phelps, and Blewett (Hon. Secretary).

MR. MOORE RESIGNS.

A letter was read from Mr. L. F. Moore (Vice-President), in which he resigned his office and the membership of the Society, as he is leaving the business. As Mr. Moore has been actively connected with the Society from its commer-

ment, some discussion took place as to the manner of accepting the resignation. Eventually it was decided to accept the resignation and make Mr. Moore an honorary member.

THE BOOK OF RULES.

The manner of electing new members, about which Mr. Moore had given notice at the previous meeting, was referred to the Rules Committee to decide. The Rules Committee consists of the Executive, but Mr. Skerrett was appointed to act until Mr. Bickle's return from England.

The Hon. Treasurer's report from the annual meeting held on October 26, 1903, having been examined and corrected, was passed. The balance in hand at that date was 20*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*

CO-OPERATING WITH OTHER SOCIETIES.

The Hon. Secretary stated that he had written to the various South African States—namely, Cape Colony, Natal, Orange River Colony, and Transvaal, as to their regulations for examinations, the sale of poisons, the importation of proprietary medicines without stamps, a retail price-list, and company trading. Replies had been received from the first three, but no reply had yet come to hand from the Transvaal.

The Secretary was requested to write again to the Transvaal Pharmaceutical Society, as it is necessary to have the whole correspondence before the next meeting.

NEW VICE-PRESIDENT.

After some discussion Mr. Bickle was elected Vice-President for the remainder of 1904, it being considered advisable that the Salisbury members should have a voice in the Executive.

THE SPIRIT QUESTION.

The President then informed the meeting that methylated spirit would in future be imported free of duty. What the authorities had done, the President added, complied with what was asked for in removing a tax from a burning-fuel which is as much a domestic necessary as paraffin. No permit is specified in selling it to natives, and the source of origin is indicative of British methylated spirit only.

Mr. Copley also informed the members that the duty on spt. vini rect. will be 15*s.* per proof gal. as before, but the full duty will be refunded. A credit-and-debit account will have to be kept, so as to assess the amount of rebate. One gallon may be sold for scientific purposes, the purchaser having to claim the rebate of duty. The purport of the law is to account for the whole of the spirit consumed. The retail price is a matter outside the Society's functions, and will be treated as a trade matter hereafter. It was decided by the members present that the Executive should consult the authorities about passes to natives for carrying rectified and methylated spirit from the stores to their employers, as it is illegal for any native to be in possession of potable spirit without a written permit by the vendor or sender of the same.

The two concessions just mentioned were brought about by the Society's efforts, the Secretary adding that Mr. Chamberlain's hand was in it, and were it not outside the Society's scope he would like to submit that gentleman's fiscal policy for debate at one of the social gatherings; the difficulty, however, existed in finding any opposition to the policy of thoughtful "Joe." (Applause.)

The usual vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the meeting.

Personalities.

MR. GEORGE W. HARRISON, the death of whose wife we noted in last week's issue (page 356), is senior representative for Messrs. Lofthouse & Saltmer, manufacturing chemists, Hull, with whom he holds a confidential position.

MR. W. S. STEVENS, of Weston Road, Strood, Rochester (son of the late Councillor James Stevens, for many years in business at Strood as a family chemist and druggist), has been appointed operating dental surgeon to Mr. G. H. Lodge, M.D., Rotherham.

MR. CHARLES MAW, senior partner of the firm of Messrs. S. Maw, Son & Sons, Aldersgate Street, E.C., has given a donation of 100 guineas to the fund that is being raised to build and endow an Institute of Medical Science under the control of the University of London.

MR. CHRISTOPHER RAWSON, F.I.C., F.C.S., who some time ago went out to India on behalf of the Indigo-planters' Association to report on the means for averting the synthetic-indigo calamity, has now been engaged by the Badische Anilin und Soda Fabrik, in Ludwigshafen, and begins his duties on April 1.

MR. R. FEAVER CLARKE, pharmaceutical chemist, Gravesend, is fortunate in the possession of two clever daughters. His second daughter, Miss Edith R. Clarke, is one of the successful candidates at the January Matriculation examination of the London University; and his youngest daughter, Miss Winifred Sowter Clarke, has passed the Cambridge University Local examination, being in the first class, second division, junior girls.

MR. EDWIN WILES, 52 Upper St. Phillip's Road, Sheffield, is advertising his business for sale as a going concern, and is retiring from the drug business. He was the first fra' Sheffield to pass the Modified examination, being at that time an assistant with Messrs. Cubley & Preston at the corner of High Street and Fargate. He was born at Whitecroft, Sheffield, in April, 1846, and in 1862 went to the Sheffield Infirmary to learn dispensing, leaving after a short time to go to Mr. Jonathan Barber, surgeon, with whom he remained for some four or five years, his next move being to Messrs. Parker & Pratt, surgeons, George Street. Then he was with Messrs. Cubley & Preston for two years, and purchased a business in Mitchell Street from Mr. Godley. Four years later he purchased the property he now occupies at the corner of Mitchell Street and Upper St. Phillip's Road, where he has been in business for thirty years. He speedily built up a big drysaltory-business in addition to his ordinary trade, employing at one time a qualified assistant, three travellers, six girls, and a carter, and keeping two horses employed. For some years past Mr. Wiles has devoted himself very successfully to business speculations outside pharmacy, and has spent a good deal of time collecting rents for himself and others (he has property as far afield as Brigg). One of his principal lines is the purchase of policies and reversions; and he states that at the present time he is paying 1*l.* a day in premiums, so that he can bid farewell to the drug-trade with a light heart.

MR. ALGERNON SIDNEY CAMPKIN, J.P., chemist and druggist, of Cambridge, has this week been co-opted to the vacancy on the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain vacant through the death of Mr. John Taylor. A genial, painstaking business-man, with wide experience in the administration of one of the largest provident institutions in the world (the Manchester Unity of Oddfellows), Mr. Campkin should do good service to his own particular craft. But he must make the opportunity, for he now joins a body in which there is a heavy precipitate of executive power and a copious supernatant liquor of on-looking. Mr. Campkin has frequently tried to get on the Council, for has not the poet said of him—

Keen to break the phalanx, from the city on the Cam

Comes the gay but pertinacious candidate

Who has served his fellow-citizens, and thinks his work no sham,

And who annually appears to tempt his fate.

Mr. Campkin's experience of pharmacy began in 1860, and he has been in business in Cambridge since 1868. He is a dentist as well as a chemist, and has a son in each branch, but both are chemists. He has all the leisure that comes with success, and municipal and presidential experience which should be of service in his new capacity.

